

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

IMAGE is Everything, Part 3

Questions written by Pastor Miles McPherson

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would you like to lead your own small group? – Talk to your Small Group Leader and contact Carolyn York at carolyn.york@therocksandiego.org or 619.764.5120.

Boot Camp – Learn more about discipleship and growing your faith in Christ at this dynamic 12 week study course. Next course begins Monday, September 24 and Wednesday, September 26. For more information or to register, go to www.therocksandiego.org/bootcamp.

New to the Rock Reception – If you're new to the Rock, join our pastors in the cafeteria of the Rock Church for fellowship, refreshments and Cold Stone ice cream. Happens every Sunday, 4-5 PM or Tuesday, 7-8 PM.

For all other Rock events, please go <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

As "small groupies," you are the heart and soul of this ministry--who better than you to lift up the Small Group Ministry in prayer? So, it's up to you, you can spend time in your small group praying for these things (weekly or occasionally), or you can pray during the week on your own time. And if you'd like to be added to our Pastor's Prayer Team(s), just let us know. John Dehnert, Mark Collins, or Paul Garrison, our small group pastors, would love your prayers! We send out a monthly email of their personal and ministry prayer requests. Just contact Andy Rodgers at andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org. May God work through your prayers mightily!

Reaching the Lost: Please pray that God would continue to draw the lost both to the Rock and our small groups.

Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups: Pray that God would energize, strengthen and restart groups in the fall months.

Potential Small Group Leaders: Pray that our groups would grow people in becoming God's friends.

Small Group Staff: Pray that God would renew our strength.

The Rock Body: Pray that we would take time to celebrate all that God has done in our midst.

MEMORY VERSE

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. Colossians 2:9-10

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – IMAGE IS EVERYTHING

“Mirror, mirror on the wall,” is the infamous line from the wicked queen in the *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* fairy tale. As the vain queen peered into the mirror gazed at her “blurred” image,” no longer was she the fairest of the land for that title had finally been claimed by another. Sadly, because of the consequences of sin we all see a distorted reflection which has marred our supernatural potential and caused us to reject our spiritual responsibilities. If we do not take the necessary steps to remove the blur, we will never see ourselves as God sees us and realize the Image of God which truly reigns within us.

Getting Started

All behavior is purposeful and we do things for a reason. Identify one bad habit you do that you know is wrong. Then try to explain why you do it. What are some of the perceived personal gains you receive from this behavior? What are the consequences? How has your self-image been affected by your habits?

Because of our blurred image of ourselves we often times strive to maintain a false image or practice “image management” instead of asking for help from others. Using a deck of cards, give one card to each person in your group (the object of the game is to collect as many cards as possible). Then take about 10-15 minutes discussing some solutions to your unwanted habits (you may want to set a timer). Anytime someone uses the personal pronoun “I” they must forfeit a card to the first person who catches them. The object of the game is to help people realize how much their focus is on themselves rather than God and others.

Digging Deeper

1. Read Exodus 3:13; John 8:58.
 - a. **I—Individual personalities—A blurred image creates an “I AM” imposter.**
 - b. What does God’s name say about Him?
 - c. What daily practices do you do that actually cause you to live independently of God? What’s been the result?

2. Read Leviticus 20:26; 1 Peter 1:15
 - a. **M—Moral mirrors—a blurred image can cause a self-appointed morality maker.**
 - b. One thing is for sure, on this side of heaven there is a gap between God’s perfect standards and our performance. Have you ever been tempted to judge the sin of a brother or sister in Christ harsher than your own? What was the result?
 - c. A popular phrase in our culture is “judge not, or you’ll be judged.” Is this biblical? How can we rightly judge ourselves?

3. Read Psalm 75:6; Isaiah 14:12-15; 1 Peter 5:5
 - a. **A—Authority to rule—a blurred image affects the scope of our authority.**
 - b. What are some ways people attempt to elevate their personal status?
 - c. In the last week, what ways have you tried to promote yourself and your personal agenda?
 - d. Can you think of some reasons why God chooses to raise some to higher levels of authority, while seemingly neglecting others?

4. Read Genesis 3:8-10; James 4: 4-15; Matthew 6;24
 - a. **G—God’s friend—a blurred image is always the result of refusing to be God’s friend.**
 - b. Think about the last time your disobedience caused you to run from God; how did you see yourself? How did you see others? How did you see Him?

5. Read Genesis 3:3, 16-17, 21-24
 - a. **Eternal Spirit—God has created us to live with Him forever.**
 - b. How can a blurred image of God threaten a person's opportunity for eternal life?
 - c. How can a blurred self image of self threaten someone's opportunity for eternal life?
 - d. How can a blurred image threaten a believer's potential?

Bringing it Home

6. Take a few minutes and write down some names of people you know who have a blurred image of God and themselves. Ask Jesus to show you how you could help them see more clearly. Ask Him to give you the opportunity to have influence in their lives. What would that look like?
7. Share with the group an image you possess about God or yourself that seems unbiblical. Brainstorm how your group could help each other restore a right image.