

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## IMAGE is Everything, Part 5

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](mailto:carolyn.york@therocksandiego.org) or 619.764.5120.

**Saturday, October 27 is Navy Day at Liberty Station** and we are looking for a few individuals willing to volunteer at a Pancake Breakfast for active military and their families from 8-10 AM that day. This event is part of Fleet Week and the Rock would like to be part of the celebration of our military men and women. If you or your small group are interested in serving, please contact Susan Kennedy at [susan.kennedy@therocksandiego.org](mailto:susan.kennedy@therocksandiego.org) or 619.764.5164.

**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. 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](mailto: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 for the new small group leaders as they start leading their groups this month and next.

**Small Group Staff:** Pray that God would renew our strength and give us His vision for small groups as we begin our planning for 2008.

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

## MEMORY VERSE

*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:1-2*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – THE CROSS

Okay, this question might seem a little bit weird or even morbid, but here it goes anyway, “Have you ever thought about what your funeral will be like?” I sometimes wonder, “What will people be talking about?” Maybe I’m getting a little older and beginning to think of my own mortality but lately I’ve been questioning, “When my friends and family write my obituary what will it say?” Frankly, deep down I think all of us have a desire to make an impact on the world.

Again and again the Bible calls us to take inventory of our lives and to try to answer the big questions that seem to haunt us like: “What on earth am I here for?” “What’s the true meaning and purpose of life?” “Is there a reason for life’s difficulties?” “Is this life truly a temporary assignment?” The Bible tells us that the purpose of our lives is far greater than our own personal fulfillment or even our happiness. When we begin at the wrong starting point (ourselves), it becomes impossible to find the answers to life’s ultimate questions.

### *Getting Started*

1. Start this week by going around the room and asking everyone the following question: If they were to die today what one word would best describe how they would be remembered? After they give their answers, compare their word with the message of the cross of Christ, the Symbol of our God-given image.

### *Digging Deeper*

#### **2. Individual Personality**

- a. Read Luke 22:39-42. In this passage, Jesus was sweating because He did not want to do what?
- b. Does the message of the cross make you more or less secure in your identity? Please explain.
- c. What is one sinful area in your life that is least denied? What have been some of the consequences or results?

### 3. Moral Mirror

- a. Read Luke 23:32-34; Colossians 3:1-9. The Bible has given us two basic strategies to win victory over sin: Resist and flee. In the previous verses (Luke 22:39-42), we saw Jesus resisting sin by totally giving Himself over to God.
  
- b. When temptation hits we have two basic responses: fight or flight. Share with your group the five following scenarios and decide what the best course of action is (fight or flight). Encourage your group to biblically support their answers.
  - i. Unable to resist sweets after dinner no matter what the scale says.
  - ii. Curiosity about *Playboy's* issue on Middle East's politics.
  - iii. Urge to "go into hibernation" when people talk about you behind your back.
  - iv. Desire to "swing by the club" just to see old friends.
  - v. Sudden fear that someone will abduct your kids.

### 4. Authority to Rule

- a. Read Luke 23:35-38 and Philippians 2:5-8. At the moment of Jesus' crucifixion, He did not seem triumphant or possessing any great authority to rule, yet looks were deceiving. Share about a time when being obedient to God caused great pain and rejection from others? What was the final result?

### 5. God's Friend

- a. Read Luke 22:19-20; Romans 1:17; Ephesians 2:8-9.
  
- b. We are saved by \_\_\_\_\_ and need to walk by \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- c. What's one risk you can take in life that could help your faith to grow?
  - i. Stand up for a value you believe in with those who are outside the faith.
  - ii. Risk trusting those in your small group with intimate struggles in your life.
  - iii. Take on a personal challenge that you know will stretch you.
  - iv. Other \_\_\_\_\_

d. How could some of these risks increase your friendship with God?

**6. Eternal Spirit**

a. Read Matthew 19:16-26. If you were standing in the rich young ruler's sandals that day what would Jesus tell you to do before you could follow Him?

b. Is holding onto \_\_\_\_\_ worth forfeiting eternal riches? How can we rid ourselves of loving temporary things?

***Bringing it Home***

7. Identify one area in your life that operates contrary to the cross. Then find and memorize a Bible verse that directly speaks to this area. Decide what you will do this week to conform your life to more accurately reflect the message of the cross. (Some ideas might be: prayer and fasting, accountability, Bible memorization, avoiding tempting situations, a one day God retreat.)