

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Great Expectations

Questions written by Pastor Miles McPherson

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would you like to lead or host a small group? Our next Small Group Training begins February and these groups will begin in April, so mark your calendar. If you'd like to be on our mailing list regarding Small Group events and trainings, email carolyn.york@therocksandiego.org.

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, just let us know. Mark Collins, the Small Group Pastor, would love your prayers! We send out a monthly email of his 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 for a season of refreshment for our small group leaders during this holiday season and fresh vision for the upcoming year as they continue to pour into their small groups.

Potential Small Group Leaders: 40 people attended our recent Small Group Leadership Training. Can you keep them in your prayers? The goal is to have them start their groups in January.

Small Group Staff: Due to our current staffing situation, can you pray that God would give us His wisdom in how to spend our time and efforts?

The Rock Body: Please pray that our church would continue to grow in relationship with the Lord and follow in His ways. *Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.* Colossians 2:6-7

MEMORY VERSE

Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it will cost all you have, get understanding. Proverbs 4:6-7

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – GREAT EXPECTATIONS

If we're honest, we'll admit that we approach our lives with a set of desires and wishes that we hope will be realized sometime in the future. When we were younger, most of us had ideas about what the future could hold: whether we would get married, have 2.5 children, the dog and the white picket fence. Others may have wanted a challenging career or some type of recognition or fame. But what happens when our dreams fail to materialize? Maybe life's consequences have thrown you a curve ball and now it's hard for you to see the forest from all the trees and still have hope.

Certainly Ruth must have felt like God was ignoring her dreams when she found herself a widow in a strange culture.

The good news is that God doesn't intend for us to abandon our heartfelt hopes and dreams. After all, He is the One who put those desires in us. Yet, most of the time He has a greater plan than we could even imagine. When we learn to trust Him with our dreams that's when God begins to share with us our greater purpose in life. The book of Ruth is a wonderful story about God's providence (How God orchestrates all things for His glory and our good). If you ask Him (on a continuing basis), He will show you what He has for you.

Getting Started

1. Over the last four weeks we've been studying the book of Ruth and the way that God providentially acted on her behalf. Ask your group to list some of the "circumstances" that God used for Ruth's benefit and His glory. Here's a few to get you started: A famine in the land of Israel led Elimelech to leave Israel; the death of Naomi's of husband and two sons tested Ruth's faithfulness....

Digging Deeper

2. Read Ruth Chapter 4 in its entirety.
 - a. What are some of the actions that Boaz performed in chapter four that revealed his character? (For help, look at: 4: 1-2; 5-6, 9, 13, 16).

- Tamar (Matthew 1:3; Genesis 38)
- Rahab (Matthew 1:5; Joshua 1-2; 6:17)
- Bathsheeba (Matthew 1:6; 2 Samuel 11)
- Mary (Matthew 1:16; 1:18-2:23)

b. All these women suffered scandal and painful circumstances, how could these women provide hope for us when life gets hard?

7. How has Jesus personally become your kinsman-redeemer?

- By becoming human He made Himself like us
- By being sinless He alone was able to purchase us from sin
- By being loving He sacrifice to redeem us
- By suffering He paid the high price of our redemption
- Just as Boaz did all the hard work to redeem Ruth, Jesus has done all the work to redeem us
- Just as Boaz loved his bride, Jesus loves His church
- Just as Boaz redeemed both Ruth and her land, Jesus will redeem both His people and His creation

Bringing it Home

8. In the story of your life right now, what would you like most to have?

- A kinsman that could provide for me.
- Someone to share life with.
- More kindness and compassion.
- More integrity in my relationships.
- The Lord's blessing in my life.
- A little more romance.
- Other _____

9. How can the group pray for you and any needs you may have?