

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Here I Am, Send Me!

Questions written by Mark Collins

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Small Group Announcement - The Small group team is so excited to see and experience all the supernatural growth over the last three months. In fact, God has blessed us with one hundred new groups since the beginning of the 2008. Despite His goodness the demand for new small groups at the Rock is staggering. Last month we had over 1000 people who signed up wanting to be placed in a group in their area. One simple thing that you could do to help the team is to allow us to post your phone number on the group finder on the Rock's website. This will help people connect to you much easier and help them find a group more quickly.

Maybe it's been a while since you have updated your information with us. We understand that things change like phone numbers, locations where you're meeting, or new leaders in your group. Right now would be a perfect time to update your info, and let us know how everything is going. We'd love to serve you any way we can. To update your information call Danah at 619-764-5120 or email her at danah.davis@therocksandiego.org

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. 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: Pray that all the small groups continue to develop relationships with those who are far from God, and invite them to their small groups.

Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups: Pray that all of our Small Groups take time to follow up on all the new people trying to get into small groups.

Potential Small Group Leaders: Pray that our current leaders continue to give their ministry away and develop future leaders to reach their full potential in Jesus.

Small Group Staff: Pray that God gives us the favor and wisdom to rebuild the Small Group team. Ask Him to order our steps in every decision we make.

The Rock Body: Pray that the Rock Army grows deeper and deeper in accountability to one another.

MEMORY VERSE

Whoever wants to become great must become a servant. Mark 10:43 (Msg)

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We must descend into greatness.

Does that sentence seem like there's something a little off, a little backwards maybe? People who are great in our culture live their lives beyond the velvet ropes or in luxury sky-boxes. Their influence is measured by the number of people who serve them not how many they serve. Sadly, the world defines greatness in terms of power, position, possessions, and prestige. In our me-first generation, with its me-first mentality, acting like a servant is not a popular concept. Jesus, however, measured greatness by a completely different standard. He told his followers that His father measured greatness by the number of people they served not vice versa. If we're honest, although we understand the concept we just have a hard time practicing it. We're not the only ones. The disciples argued about whom among them would hold the most prominent position in the new Kingdom to come. Now, some 2000 years later church leaders still jockey for position and power in churches, denominations and other ministries. Surprisingly, there have been thousands of books written on the subject of leadership but very, very few on pure servanthood. A popular phrase, "servant leadership" has risen in the 21st century to describe modern leadership. Yet, Jesus, arguably the greatest leader and most influential figure in human history, referred to himself as just a plain servant. So maybe you're asking yourself the question "Do I have the heart of a servant?" While it is possible to serve in the church for a lifetime without ever becoming a servant, Jesus said, "You can tell what they are by what they do."

Real servants make themselves available to serve. Jesus constantly made himself available to God at all times. Real servants do what needs to be done even when it's inconvenient. Ask yourself some questions: "Am I available to God at anytime?" "Do I allow Him to mess up my plans without becoming resentful?" Real servants see interruptions as divine appointments and are willing to give their schedules over to God. Secondly, real servants pay attention to needs. Sometimes we miss opportunities for serving because we lack the sensitivity to see needs that are right in front of us. Great opportunities never last long, they pass away quickly never to return again. Lastly, real servants maintain a low-profile. They don't call attention to themselves. Instead of trying to impress they "put on the apron of humility." Self-promotion and servanthood don't mix, for real servants don't serve for the approval of others. Servants think more about others than about themselves. This is the essence of true humility: not thinking less of ourselves but thinking of ourselves less. This attitude is truly what it means to "lose your life."

Getting Started

Think back in your past of someone who has served you—a person that really met a real need. What was that like? Can you describe to the group what they did and how that made you feel?

Digging Deeper:

If we're honest the actions that come from a servant's heart don't come naturally. Unfortunately some leaders start out as servants, only to end up as celebrities. Jesus when he redefined greatness for this world let us in on the true value system in heaven.

1. Read Mark 10:42-45. In the world that you presently live in, what does it take to be "great" (envied, respected, emulated)?
 - a. According to Jesus what does it take to be "great" in God's kingdom?

2. Read Phillipians 2:1-8. What did it cost Jesus to serve you (verses 6-8)?
 - a. Can you think of some things that Jesus gave up in becoming human?
3. How did Paul describe a true servant's attitude in verses 2-4?
4. In Phillipians 2:3 Paul says to consider "others better than yourselves." What do you think he meant by this? Do you think he's suggesting that you should have a low self image?
5. Have you ever felt the tension between seeking greatness in people's eyes and seeking greatness in God's eyes? Please explain.
 - a. Where in your life right now do you feel there's a battle between your interests and God's interests?
6. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Here, Paul summed up his life of service by comparing it to a fight and a race. When it comes to giving your life to serve others what are some of the fears that you have?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 11:21-33. If you had the chance to interview Paul prior to his death about how he chose to endure suffering to serve others what do you think he'd say? Why?

Bringing it Home

8. End tonight's session by asking each other the following question: If you had all the resources in the world, and you knew you couldn't fail, what is the one thing that you'd like to do for God with your life?

Then, take a piece of paper and at the top write: "Here I am. Lord. Use me." Then discuss what your next steps could be in following your dream. You may find that the Rock Church has a ministry that is similar to your calling. Pick up a ministry guide to see if you could join others, while fulfilling God's purpose for your life.