

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Are You A World-Class Christian?

Questions written by Mark Collins

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Small Group Announcements – Aloha Rock Small Group Leaders! You are cordially invited to join us for a leadership Luau on Friday, May 16, 2008 at 6:30pm at the Rock Church in room 232. Come enjoy a delicious Hawaiian buffet, hula praise performance, live Ukulele band, free giveaways, some advanced leadership training and much more! This is a free event to celebrate your faithful service to the Small Group Ministry at the Rock. Email Danah at danah.davis@therocksandiego.org for more details. Mahalo! (That means thank you!)

Small Group leaders are you encouraging your group members to join the Rock Army? Your group can catch the vision of becoming a part of a movement that encourages people to become World-Class Christians. To join, check out the ARMY requirements at www.therocksandiego.org/army/

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

“Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the good news will ever know what it means to really live!” (Mark 8:35 LB)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – ARE YOU A WORLD-CLASS CHRISTIAN?

Every Christ-follower has a choice to make. You'll either be a worldly Christian or a world-class Christian. Allow me to explain the difference. Worldly Christians look to God primarily for personal fulfillment. These people are saved, but self-centered. Their prayers focus on their needs, blessings and happiness. They are constantly asking themselves the question: "How can God make my life more comfortable, or how can I be more blessed?" They attempt to use God for their purposes rather than giving their lives over to be used for His purposes. Frankly, their lives are all about them. In contrast world-class Christians understand that they were saved to go on mission with God. They understand that everyday God is inviting them to participate in the greatest, largest and most significant cause in the history of the world—His kingdom. These Christians realize that someday the Great Commission will be the Great Completion, and that their actions are playing a significant part. The Book of Revelation tells us that people from "*every race, tribe, nation, and language*" will one day stand before the Lord to worship Him. Becoming a world-class Christian allows us to experience a little slice of that picture of heaven in advance.

I've often wondered what that little band of poor Middle Eastern followers must of thought when they heard Jesus' command to "*go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.*" Were they supposed to gather up all their means of fast transportation like, *donkeys, camels, fishing boats, chariots* and the like? At that time there were some real barriers to fulfilling Jesus' commission. Today we live in one of the most exciting times when the world has gotten much smaller, with ships, planes, the internet, cell phones, and global positioning satellites. Our generation finally has the means of making the Great Commission a reality. Right now, every corner of the world is available to us. But it's imperative that we shift our self-centered thinking and become more other's-centered. A good place to begin thinking globally is to join an entity that's larger than one's self; that's where joining the Rock ARMY is a good first step to living your life beyond yourself. Signing up is easy, just go online to www.therocksandiego.org/army/ and find a partner to hold you accountable to a way of living that's beyond self. A second way to help to you to think globally is to begin praying for specific countries. World-class Christians pray for the world and nations by name. The Bible says, "*If you ask me, I will give you the nations; all the people on earth will be yours*" (*Psalms 2:8*). Prayer is the most important tool for your mission in the world. People may reject our message, but they are defenseless against our prayers. Lastly, simply there's no better substitute than going on a short-term mission project. In Acts 1:8 Jesus gave us the pattern for involvement "*You will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world.* He told his followers to reach out to their community (Jerusalem), to their country (Judea), to other cultures (Samaria) and to other nations in the world. Set a goal to participate in a mission project to each of these four targets. I promise this endeavor will enlarge your heart, expand your vision and fill you with the kind of joy you've never experienced. It could be the turning point of your life.

Getting Started

What comes to you mind when you hear the term *world-class*? Name some people in the world that have achieved this status. What did they do to get to this level of achievement?

In you opinion what would it take to become a *world-class* Christian. Do you think that Jesus called all of His children to be *world-class*? Why or why not?

Digging Deeper:

Read Matthew 28: 16-20; Mark 16:15-18 and Acts 1:7-8. Jesus made in very clear what the mission of the Church was to be about. Although not every Christian possesses the missionary gift (those who are given a gift mix and a calling to plant churches in a cross-cultural setting), every Christian is called to be on mission to all four groups found in Acts 1:8.

1. Have you ever wondered why God chose to deal with mankind the way he did? What are some other ways that God could have chosen when dealing with humanity's sin?
 - a. Destroy mankind and forget about the entire race.
 - b. Scatter man and let sin destroy him.
 - c. Start over with a man who is incapable of sin.
 - d. Take the risk of continuing with the original plan of complete freedom of choice for man.
 - e. Modify the original plan so that man can be directed through subconscious mind control.
2. What would be the risk if God chose any of the above mentioned ways to deal with humans?
3. Can you think of some tactics that the enemy has used to sidetrack the church from fulfilling its mission to seek and save that which is lost? (Persecution, Deception, Discord, Prejudice, other...)
 - a. Describe a time when the enemy used these tactics on you. What was the result?
4. In what ways would your life look different if you constantly viewed the world from God's global perspective? What do you think you'd see?
5. What do you think Jesus meant by the phrases, "you'll receive power to be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8), and "surely I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20), when it comes to fulfilling His commandment?
6. How could joining the Rock Army help you to make a greater commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission?
7. How could your group work as a team to fulfill God's Acts 1:8 evangelism strategy for the entire world (locally, regionally, nationally, globally)?

Bringing it Home

The most famous verse in the Bible begins with "*For God so loved the world...*" From the very beginning He has wanted family members from every nation He created. Much of the world already thinks globally. All of the largest conglomerates on the earth are multinational. Our lives are becoming increasing intertwined with those around the globe.

8. Maybe there's a particular part of the world, because of injustice or severe circumstances that God is putting on your heart. Talk about how your group can reach those who are in desperate need. For more information on how you could become strategic global prayer partners take a look at www.imb.org www.wycliffe.org www.ntm.org