

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“FROMTO Book of 1 Samuel”
Listen (1 Samuel 3:1-10)
Questions written by Brandon Fries
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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.

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

MEMORY VERSE

“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” (1 Samuel 3:9)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – LISTEN

Here in Southern California, we are busy people. We have fast food restaurants on every corner. We leave bags of dirty cloths on our doorstep and the dry cleaning fairy's replace them with new clean clothes. We no longer have to drive our cars to the car wash, we can have them come to us. Even my dog food is delivered. Even with all the time saving techniques, sometimes we wish that God had made a 25 hour day so we could complete just a little more.

I even find that this bleeds into my “quiet time” with God. I begin by saying a quick 30 second prayer to ask God do speak through the section of scripture I'm about to read. I then go through the 2-3 chapters of His Word and hope something sticks. Once I have read, I get my list of 25 people I am praying for and I

begin a 5-10 minute monologue detailing how God needs to intervene in each of their lives. I finish with a couple personal requests (I leave myself at the end so that I don't sound selfish to God). I thank God for listening, and say "in Jesus name, amen."

Unfortunately there aren't any shortcuts to spiritual growth. Just as fast food doesn't give adequate nutrition to our body, Sunday morning, an occasional reading of the Bible and some quick prayers don't adequately provide enough nutrition to our spiritual life. My "quiet time" has nothing to do with me sitting and being quiet before God (since I'm the one doing all the talking), but is lowered to God being quiet while I do my tasks.

Salvation Army commissioner Samuel Logan Brengle said this about spiritual disciplines:

I do a lot of listening. Prayer, you know, is not meant to be a monologue, but a dialogue. It is a communion, a friendly talk. While the Lord communicates with me mainly through His Word, he gives me a great deal of comfort in a direct manner. By "comfort" I do not mean cuddling or coddling, but assurance- assurance of His presence with me and His pleasure in my service. It is like the comfort given by a military commander to his soldier or envoy who he sends on a difficult mission: "You go, put on your armor, I'm watching you, and I'll send you all the reinforcements you need as they are needed." I have to be comforted that way a great deal. I don't just assume that God is near me and pleased with me; I must have a fresh witness daily.

Getting Started

Begin this session by asking your group to relate a time when their spiritual world and physical world weren't strong enough to hold them up during a crisis. If they haven't had that kind of experience, describe how they avoided such a time.

Digging Deeper:

Ask someone in your group to read 1 Samuel 3:1-10.

1. Describe an experience you or someone you know has had that is similar to that of Samuel in the reading above.
2. How do you prepare to actively listen to God (Place, time, material needed)?
3. Miles posed this question at the beginning of his sermon "How do you know when God is calling you?"
4. Have you heard God call you and what did he ask you to do?
5. What struggles and victories have you endured because of following God's leading?
6. Gordon McDonald wrote in his book *Ordering your Private World*, "We often enter the chamber to meet with God while we are still emotionally out of breath." If this happened to you, what can you do to prevent it in the future?

Bringing it Home

Meditation is often a word we associate with Eastern religions. We picture a guy sitting cross legged, eyes closed, chanting meaningless words over and over until they reach some sort of spiritual enlightenment. In Eastern religion, the goal of meditation is to “kill the mind”. But for Christians, meditation is different. Instead of working to empty our minds, we try to fill our minds with God’s truth. We sit and listen. This meditation involves looking at the Word, comparing it to our lives and to the world we live in, and then responding by changing our lives.

End this session by reading Psalm 139 as a group. Spend 5 minutes practicing meditation individually. Think about the verses, how they apply to your life. What is God asking you to do in light of these words? Encourage the group to pick a new psalm each day and begin practicing the discipline of listening.