

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“Distractions”

(Matthew 16:13-20)

Pastor Ricky’s Sermon; June 29, 2008

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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/

Its summertime and we are glad that you are serving in the small group ministry. We are going to be having an event on July 19th. More info to come next week.

We want to encourage you and your group to take time to get out and serve in the community. This is a great opportunity for you to make a difference and connect with your small group. Give us a call if you need some ideas.

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.

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

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning it’s shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS –

I love to watch movies and one of my all time favorites is “The Matrix”. At one point Neo (Keanu Reeves) is confronted by Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne). They are both sitting in a darkened room facing each other. Morpheus shows Neo two pills; the notorious blue pill and red pill. If Neo takes the first pill his eyes will be opened and begin to see the world as it really is, but he won’t be able to go back to his old life. Or he can take the 2nd pill which will return him to the life he knew and never learn the truth.

I remember when I was faced with the truth and I had to decide if I was going to surrender my life, or if I was going to reject the truth. When I chose the truth I felt like a huge weight was removed from my shoulders, my eyes were open and I was finally living life to its fullest. Everything started to make sense and the fog of depression was removed. I thought that it would last forever... but it didn’t. Slowly the distractions began reintroducing themselves.

Peter quickly proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah... yet only six verses later he is rebuked by Christ. I love the fact that even Peter didn’t always get it right, but he tried. He was the only disciple that actually walked on the water. Remember how Christ called him out, and as his eyes were on Christ, he was doing it. He was walking on water! But when he was distracted by the wind and took his eyes off of Christ he began to sink (Matthew 14:22-36).

Getting Started

What distracts you from truly pursuing Christ?

How can you begin to eliminate that distraction from your life?

Digging Deeper:

Read Matthew 16:13-20

1. Read Matthew 16:13. Caesarea Phillipi was littered in idol worship. Where have you been that could be called a modern day Caesarea Phillipi? What was it like?
2. Read Matthew 16:14-15. What were your thoughts of Christ before surrendering to Him? Who is Christ to you now? How did you surrender to Him?
3. Read Matthew 17-18. God had a plan for Peter, building the church. Where do you think God is asking you to step out of the boat and follow Him? What step can you take this week to begin?
4. Read Hebrews 12:1. What hinders you in your walk with Christ? Where do you feel “entangled”?
5. Read Hebrews 12:2. What does it mean to “fix our eyes on Jesus”? How can you practice that?

Bringing it Home

We often limit the power of God in our lives. We minimize who we are. The bible says that we are adopted sons and co-heirs with Christ! That means that we have a piece of the inheritance! We matter to God and He sees all the great things we can do.

I have an ongoing image of a beautiful red corvette. I can hear the grumbling as it sits in idle on my street. I picture myself sliding onto the black leather driver seat. I place my hand on the gear shaft and rev the engine. But instead of throwing it into gear, I keep it in neutral, get out and begin to push it down the street. You see, I have this vehicle that has great potential, but it can only be used if I get in and put it in drive. Often that's how we treat God. God has given us great power by having the Holy Spirit in us. We limit the work He wants to do by thinking that we're not good enough, or by not even stepping out to try. If only we would wake up to whom we are in Him and see ourselves the way that He sees us, we too could find ourselves in the middle of the lake walking on water with Jesus. Finish the lesson by asking these questions:

Who are we in Christ (i.e. son's of God, co-heirs, saints)?

What assurance/comfort does give you to help you take a step of faith?