

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“BARTIMAEUS SEES”

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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/

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.

We also want to remind you to continue to submit your online reports. This is a great tool so you can communicate with us so we can answer any questions you have and be in prayer for you and your group. Keep up the good work.

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

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15

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Stories... don't we all love a good story? Whether it's a sappy love story, an action packed gun battle, stories of espionage or even the back-story of celebrities and their lives, we all love stories. Even though these are all intriguing, the greatest stories to hear are those that show how God has entered into people's lives and changed them from the inside out.

I had lunch with an old high school friend yesterday. We hadn't seen each other in 10 years. He was telling me of his journey into the ministry and the struggles he's faced during that time. He shared how God called him and how he worked through tough circumstances to continue to follow God; and God's faithfulness through the journey. As he shared, I had goose bumps all over my body. It reminded me that even though my day wasn't going well, God is continually at work... even when I don't "feel" like He is. I remembered that God is in the business of doing miracles in our lives and the lives around us.

Today we are going to be looking at the miracle of Jesus healing Bartimaeus, a blind man. Pastor Ricky preached about how the disabled were put at the city gates to beg and that it was considered a social service to give money to them. People would give money so that they "looked good". As the story begins, imagine a large crowd coming up to the gates where Bartimaeus is sitting with his cloak. Bartimaeus hears the commotion and begins asking, "I hear all these people, what's going on?" When he learns it Christ, he thinks..."this is my chance! What do I have to lose? I can stay here and beg... or I try to change my life!" He chose the changed life.

Getting Started

If you could ask Christ to perform one miracle right now... what would you ask Him to do?

Digging Deeper:

1. Read Mark 10:46-47. Bartimaeus takes a risk and shouts out for God. How did you first cry out to God when you were rescued by Him? What was going on in your life? How do you currently cry out and depend on God?
2. In Mark 10:48 we see the crowds try to silence the blind man. How does Bartimaeus show faith while the crowd doesn't? What is a situation you are currently dealing with where others are trying to silence you? How can you show your faith during this circumstance?
3. Compare Mark 10:51 to Mark 10:36 and the surrounding scripture, how do Jesus' responses differ between the blind man and James and John? Why did He respond differently? How do you typically approach God with your requests?

Bringing it Home

The end of the story is always the best. When Bartimaeus was healed... he immediately followed Christ. It started when he took a risk and asked for the impossible. He received the impossible and instantly followed the source of his new life. This is quite the opposite reaction of rich ruler in Mark 10:17-22. Compare and contrast both stories. Discuss the motivations and desires of the ruler versus Bartimaeus and take inventory on how we are doing and what we can do differently to pursue Christ as...

- The body of Christ.
- A small group
- An individual believer.