

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“The Fine Line”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This fall we are kicking off a huge church wide campaign! The campaign is going to launch on September 28th and will lead right up the elections in November and will be a “full court press” for all Rock Church attendees. We will be having a parenting workshops, relationships classes and guest speaker Chip Ingram on Sunday the 28th along with Miles bringing the Word. The small groups department will have 4 different curriculums that will align with everything else the church is doing. We know that God desires us to be pursuing purity and holiness and our goal is that this campaign will continue the process with everyone that chooses to participate. We want to ask you to join us during this six week campaign by going through one of the 4 curriculums (these will be available in the booth outside the church at the Sunday Services). We are expecting great things to happen as we come together as the church united under one purpose. Please encourage potential leaders in your group to step out and consider being a Host Home Leader during the 6 week campaign. All the need to do is come to one of our Host Home Trainings (September 14th and 21st from 2-3pm at the church or on Thursday September 18th, from 7-8pm at the church).

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!

iProtect Marriage Campaign: Pray for our upcoming fall season. Pray that God provides the host homes for the groups we are going to start for the six week campaign and also for God to stretch us as a church as we pursue Him together.

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, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is- his good pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:1-2

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – “THE FINE LINE”

On Sunday, Miles began a new series on “Walking the Fine Line”. Over the next couple of months, we will be taking a journey to understand the difference of being in the world and not of the world. Today we are going to be exploring when Peter and John were arrested and had to stand before the Sadducees and rulers.

Prior to their arrest, Peter and John just healed a beggar (Acts 3:1-10) and Peter spoke to a large crowd where 5,000 people became believers. Their response to the religious and civil authorities is both encouraging and empowering as we seek to learn how to walk the “fine line” in our life.

Getting Started

When was the last time you had a run in with an authority figure?

Acts 4:1-7; Capture and Accusation

The court assembled in concentric semicircles before Peter, John, and the ex-cripple, with the high priest seated in the middle. It would be difficult to imagine a more priggish, malevolent assembly of men than this group dominated by the Sadducees – highly sophisticated, twitty bluebloods who had come to take care of the Galilean hayseeds.

Do you get the picture? Peter, John and the healed beggar in their coveralls; the Sadducee-dominated Sanhedrin assembled for judgment. ‘By what power or what name did you do this?’ The question was a subtle deadly trap, because if the apostles’ accusers could get them to attribute the healing to any power other than Jehovah, even though it was a bona fide miracle they could sentence them to death (see Deuteronomy 13:1-5).

This was the same mob that tried and condemned Christ. Most of us would be absolutely paralyzed. But what did Peter do? One thing is for sure- he did not run. (Exert from Acts: the church afire; by R. Kent Hughes)

- Compare Acts 4:1-7 to Luke 20:27-40. What is the primary motivating factor of the Sadducees?
- When was a time you were doing what God wanted you to do and you were called out for it? How did you respond?

Acts 4:8-12: Peter's Response

The moment of truth arrives. Peter has a choice to make, as do we everyday. He can tell his accusers what they want to hear and make his life easier or he can give way to what God is prompting him to say. Peter obviously didn't back down from the pressure that the rulers and elders were putting on him. He stands up and proclaims Christ as the Savior. He doesn't leave out anything or water down the message. Peter exemplifies what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 when he told them to "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love."

- Compare this to the reaction of Peter in this passage to his reaction in Luke 22: 54-62. What major events happened to Peter in between this period that grew Peter?
- Do you feel more like the Peter in Luke 22 or the Peter in Acts 4? Why
- What circumstances are you currently facing where you are struggling to choose to rely on the Holy Spirit?
- Where do you need to start living out 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 in your life?

Acts 4:13-18: Attempt to Silence the church.

The Sadducees were stumped. The crippled man was no longer crippled; these ordinary men were able to quote Old Testament promises; they have done nothing wrong and they are the talk of the town. Instead of being on the offensive, they are now in a defensive position and are trying anything to "save face". The best they can do is give Peter and John a strong warning.

- Compare this response of the Sadducees to that in John 11:45-53 and John 12:10-11. Why are the leaders reacting this way?
- How have you been silent before others instead of being courageous?
- When have you been courageous?
- What fears do you struggle with during these encounters?

Acts 4:19-22: Peter and John walk the "fine line".

Peter and John hold their ground through strong persecution. They cling to what Christ taught them and care more about what their Creator thinks than what man thinks. They trust in the Holy Spirit and boldly speak out to the rulers and authorities. Their desire to please God trumps their desire to give in to the authorities and save their lives.

- Under what circumstances should a Christian disobey civil or religious authorities?
- How can we know what is "right in God's sight"?
- In which ways do you need the Holy Spirit's direction in your life right now?
- How are you successful and struggling to walking the fine line?