

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“Fine Line Fast”

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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

“He must increase and I must decrease.”

John 3:30

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – “FINE LINE FAST”

As we begin to start our fast this week, Miles said that the goal of the fast is to have a “personal encounter with the living God”. Peter reminds us to “be holy as I (God) am holy” (1 Peter 1:16). To be holy means to be “set apart”. During the fast, we are setting ourselves apart, denying the “things of this world” and pursuing God. This is our opportunity to really connect with Him and hear what His desire is for us. During the next 40 days, God is going to reveal great things to you as you purposefully deny yourself and make him a priority. John the Baptist said that “He must increase and I must decrease” (John 3:30).

Today we are going to look at John 17. This is the prayer that Christ prayed the same night he was arrested. Christ pours out His heart to his Father. Within 26 verses, He clearly communicates what His mission was, who he is and what his passion is... since He would only be alive for another 24 hours. His whole life was “set apart” and now came the finale of His mission.

Getting Started

Imagine that God revealed to you that you only have 24 hours until your death. What would you be thinking? What would you want to share to those around you? What would you be praying and asking God for?

John 17:6-19

- Who is the focal point of Jesus’ prayer in verses 6-8? Why?
- How do you explain the relationship of Christ to the Father (v.9-12)? How do you relate with the Father in comparison to how Christ related to the Father? How are you growing in oneness with Him? With your small group?
- What is Christ’s concern in verses 11 and 15?
- “*Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives*” (Systematic Theology, Wayne Gruden, page 746)
 - o How was Christ able to sanctify himself (v.19)?
 - o How are we passively sanctified; what is God’s role in our sanctification? (2 Thes. 2:13, 2 Cor. 3:18, Hebrews 13:20-21)
 - o How are we actively sanctified; what is our role in our sanctification? (John 17:17, Matthew 4:4, Phil 4:6, Eph. 5:18-20, Heb 10:24-25, Titus 1:8)

John 17:20-26

- Who is Christ praying for in these verses?
- What is the primary theme of these verses (what action words are repeated)?
- What are the parallels in verse 21 that repeat in verse 23?
- What is the result if we stay in unity with Christ and with our fellow Christians (verse 21 and 23)?
- Read Acts 2:42-47. This is a great picture of the early church experiencing unity. Where do you experience this unity? What is your responsibility in creating unity? How can you personally be proactive in creating this for others? How can your small group be proactive in creating this unity for others?