

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

STAND UP

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

Reaching the Lost: Pray for God to help you identify people in your community, workplace, family and/or social circles that you can develop deeper relationships with, centered on love and trust, that you can share your testimony, love of Jesus and the good news with.

Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups: Pray that our current leaders are encouraged and spiritually fed. Pray for their wisdom and discernment. Pray for protective against spiritual attack. Pray that God expand their love for their small group members and community. Pray that the Lord use them to facilitate discussions that He desires to be addressed. Pray that their words be glorifying and honoring to Him.

Small Group Staff: Pray that God gives us the favor and wisdom as we develop the Small Group team. Ask Him to order our steps in every decision we make.

The Rock Body: Pray that the Rock Army grows deeper and deeper in the stewardship of their lives in Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

“ For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

-Esther 4:14

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Getting Started

1. Describe a time when you felt the Holy Spirit prompting you to share your faith, even though it might result in persecution.

2. What have you learned about God or yourself in times of spiritual persecution?

Digging Deeper

3. Read Matthew 5:10-11. What are some examples of things that you could be persecuted for righteousness' sake? What are some different forms of persecution?
 - a. (Leader Notes: Those who are *persecuted for righteousness' sake* suffer solely because they uphold God's standards of truth, justice and purity, and refuse to compromise with popular culture or bow the knee to idols created to substitute for God.)
4. What are some obstacles you face that may hinder you from having *stare down courage*?
 - a. (Leader Notes: Have your group read Deut 31:6 for encouragement.)
5. What are some common lies in our society that challenge the truth? How can you stand firm in the truth?
 - a. (Leader Notes: The Word of God is a great defense against the enemies internal lies. We should stay in the Word. Read Hebrews 4:12 for encouragement in this area.)

Bringing it Home

- Are there areas of your life where you know you are a “lukewarm” Christian?
- Do you sometimes compromise the Word of God to gain the appeal of others?

Confess any areas of unrighteous or even subtle acts of denial of our God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be bold in your faith. Ask Him to strengthen you in areas of weakness. Ask Him to use your small group or trusted group member to help keep you accountable in those areas. Seek His wisdom and discernment about how to be a good witness to the gospel. Be courageous, do not fear and ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen you.