

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

A journey to the greatest thing

Questions written by Allan Gitobu, Small Group Leader

August 30, 2009



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Small Group Leader Social!** Friday September 18th 6:30pm @ Mira Mesa Bowl -
Check your email for the invite & RSVP or contact Debbie at debigardening@gmail.com for more details.

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 the Lord would help you to identify those that are far from Him in and around you and present opportunities for you to extend His love and fruit, build relationships and help lead them to Him.

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. Also, pray that our leaders are being fed and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, staying connected to the Vine and leading above reproach.

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.

Small Group Staff: Pray that God gives us the favor and wisdom to rebuild 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

“Love the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself” Luke 10:27

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan in response to a lawyer's question, “who is my neighbor?” The term ‘Good Samaritan’ was used Sunday to illustrate someone who is caring and

loving to others. This term, taken from the scripture, is used world over even in secular settings. There are medical schools and hospitals named “Good Samaritan”. Word processors like Microsoft Word spell check flags an error if you do not capitalize the term “Good Samaritan.”

The parable is centered on a lawyer who wanted to “justify himself” (Luke 10:29). He knew the answer to his question but asked it anyway hoping to hear a different answer. He may have felt that Jesus would define who a neighbor was and perhaps wanted to debate the definition.

You may have heard this joke about a kid who did not do his homework. The student went to the teacher just after the class had begun and asked, “Teacher, would you punish someone for doing nothing?” The teacher answered, “Of course not.” The student went on to say “I have not done my homework, and since you do not punish for doing nothing, I stand absolved.”

Getting Started

A young boy seeking to justify his not honoring his step-mother said, “The commandment says ‘Honor thy father and mother’, not thy father and step mother”

- a) Is this a misinterpretation of scripture in seeking to justify oneself?
- b) Do you feel the commandment includes stepmothers and stepfathers?
- c) Why would people want to use scripture to justify themselves?

Digging Deeper:

Read Luke 10:25 - 37

1. The title Good Samaritan is not in the bible. However, some bible translations use it as the title for this story. Jesus did not call him “the good Samaritan.”
 - a. Why is the title “Good Samaritan” appropriate for this story?
 - b. Why do you think the term has become popular all over the world today?
2. The lawyer’s first question was about what he would do to inherit eternal life. When Jesus directed the question back at the lawyer, he answered it and Jesus told him that he had answered correctly.
 - a. Why did the lawyer ask a question that he knew the answer to?
 - b. Give an example of a prayer you have made to God even though you knew what God would answer.
 - i. Why did you ask anyway?
3. Seeking to justify himself the lawyer asked Jesus “and who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied with the ‘Good Samaritan’ parable.
 - a. What answer do you think the lawyer expected?
 - b. Why was this trick question?
 - c. Based on the parable what was Jesus’ definition of a neighbor?
4. A priest and a Levite passed by the man on the road.
 - a. Why do you think that neither of them attended to him?

- b. Given their resources what could they have done?
 - c. How do we justify our choice not to help out a needy person on the street, at work, or in our families?
5. The Samaritan had a donkey, some wine and oil which he used on his wounds. These might have been common items on a person travelling for seventeen miles. He also paid for one night stay at the inn and left a down payment for whatever else he might have spent. His hope was that he would heal and go on his way.
- a. “Serving God is always sacrificial”. How do the actions of the three people who met this man prove this fact?
 - b. What does this teach us about the quantity of items we need to help others?
 - c. What does this teach us about the moments we would offer help?
6. Review verse 36. At the end of the story Jesus asked him which of the three was neighbor to the beaten man. The lawyer picked the Samaritan. Jesus told him to go and do likewise.
- a. What did Jesus ask the lawyer to do in this verse?
 - b. How does the response of Jesus prove that with love “very little can go very far?”

Bringing it Home

The Good Samaritan story suggests that a neighbor is not defined by geography or proximity to us.

- 1. How will you expand the scope of your neighborhood considering that Jesus asks us to love our neighbors as ourselves?