

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“That Sinking Feeling”
(Matthew 14:22-33)

Pastor Miles FROMTO Quiz; June 29, 2008

Questions written by Mark Collins



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/

Its summertime and we are glad that you are serving in the small group ministry. This weekend, Sunday July 13th, we would like to invite you to join us at Petco Park as we spend time together and hope for a Padres win. For reduced ticket info please contact Danah at 619.764.5120 or at danah.davis@therocksandiego.org.

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.

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. If you'd like to be added to our Pastor's Prayer Team, just let us know. Mark Collins, the Small Group Pastor, would love your prayers! We send out a monthly email of his personal and ministry prayer requests. Just contact Andy Rodgers at andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org. 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

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes

on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – “THAT SINKING FEELING”

It is the nature of humans that we are always coming *from* somewhere and going *to* someplace else. Conversely, the Christian life is not about the destinations that we encounter rather it's all about the journey that we take along the way. This FROMTO experience is often characterized as the *Christian walk*. The bible records many instances when God asked his people to take a walk with Him. He asked Hannah to take a prayer walk with Him to help her believe that she would one day conceive. God asked Samuel to take a walk to discuss the reality of the people's rejection (not Samuel's leadership but a rejection of God's). God invited Saul to walk with Him at His pace which Saul had a tough time doing. He called David to walk with Him first as a shepherd boy, later, a giant killer, and finally as the king of Israel.

God is always at work in the midst of the FROMTO of our lives. During these walks God always encourages us to leave the fear that always accompanies where we are coming *from* and walk in faith *to* where the next destination awaits. When I think of some of the great walks in all of Scripture, I think of Peter's walk on the water. God called him *from* the boat *to* Himself. Unfortunately this walk was cut short because of fear. In fact, fear maybe our most powerful adversary in our walks with God. Fear motivates us to take action and remove ourselves from our perceived threats. Fear tempts us to flee, hide, or fight unnecessarily because God is incredibly close. Fear can exact an incredible high price. Consider the following drawbacks of fear:

- Fear can strike when it is not helpful or wanted.
- Fear can be paralyzing instead of motivating.
- Fear leads to habitual worry and the sin of unbelief.
- Fear threatens to keep us from trusting and obeying God.
- Fear causes us to avoid difficult situations instead of facing them head on.
- Living in fear keeps us from experiencing our God-given potential.
- Living in fear destroys our joy and rob's us of life's delights.
- Living in fear causes us to focus on the negative.
- Living in fear creates a loss of intimacy between us and other people. We become afraid to say what we think or feel, afraid of the pain of conflict.
- Living in fear causes us to believe that God can't or won't take care of us.
- Fear limits hopes, dreams, and callings.

Getting Started

Are there any benefits to fear? Describe a time when fear propelled you to do something great, and paralyzed you and kept you from being all you could be.

Digging Deeper:

Read Matthew 14: 22-33

1. What kind of things do you tend to trust in when life gets stormy, that makes you feel comfortable and secure rather than fearful? Be honest!

2. In this story who really failed? Was it Peter who asked Jesus to call him out of the boat or was it the other 11 who didn't budge? Have you ever been accused of failing at something that in reality wasn't really failure? What happened?
3. Thus far in life, what has been your experience with failure? Read Psalm 49:1-13. What happens when we place our trust in "boats"?
4. Read Matthew 14:28-29. How do we know when God is calling you to do something? How does God speak to you? Have you ever asked Him to allow you to do something crazy or supernatural like Peter? Did you get out of the boat? What happened?
5. If you don't feel that you are living out God's calling for your life, what steps might you take to begin exploring what his calling for your life may be?
6. As you consider the world around you, what need, area of the world, or group of people do you think God would have you pray for and serve in some way?
7. In the Bible we find 366 commands from God not to be afraid. These are not empty, wishful-thinking commands; they are backed by the power, character and love of God. What do the following verses reveal about choosing to trust God rather than the challenges we face?
 - Psalm 23:4
 - Psalm 27:1
 - Isaiah 43:1-4
 - Hebrews 13:5-6

Bringing it Home

Herman Melville, the author of Moby Dick, knew a thing or two about getting out of the boat. He said "He who has never failed somewhere, that man cannot be great. Failure is the test of greatness." If we are ever going to become all that God wants us to be we better get acquainted with a concept called "failure management." Failure management is the ability to believe God for the ultimate victory and realize that when we're obedient we're already a success. Maybe right now you've stepped out of the boat and everywhere you look you see the wind and waves; you have this incredible sinking feeling, Don't worry! Look at Jesus. He won't let you go!

List several positive changes you could make in order to focus more on Jesus. Be sure to include events that have revealed God's love and presence in your life. Feast on this encouragement