

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“Hate the Game, Not the Player”

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

This fall we are kicking off a huge church wide campaign! The campaign is going to launch on September 28<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 2-3pm at the church or on Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup>, 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/](http://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

*“I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.”*

**John 17:14**

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – “HATE THE GAME, NOT THE PLAYER”

When I was first invited to church back in high school, I wasn't sure what to expect. That October morning back in '93, the head cheerleader picked me up from my house. When we arrived at church, I was overwhelmed by the warm greeting coupled with smiles and hugs. It was the first time in my life I felt love and acceptance. There was something going on in this group. Months later I dedicated my life to Christ and realized that the love I felt was because of Him and His love for me (1 John 4:19).

There is something contagious about a group of believers that demonstrate God's love. I believe that if we want to impact the world, we must first learn to love one another. On Sunday, Miles spoke about love being our greatest commandment. Today we going to look at 1 John 3:11-24 and investigate what John says about loving one another in the church.

### *Getting Started*

How has your definition of love changed from your “first love” as an adolescent to now?

### *1 John 3:11-15; The Antithesis*

John begins the argument in verse 11 telling the followers that they need to do what they've been told before “to love one another”. This message isn't new to the hearers. They've all heard it over and over again. He then contrasts this with the story of Cain and Abel (Gen 4:1-8). He drives home the point that “anyone who does not love remains in death”(v. 14b). God desires a heart dedicated to Him and that is continually pouring out His love for others; which is life giving.

- Read through the story of Cain and Able (Gen 4:1-8). Why do you think John goes back to the story of Cain and Abel? What caused the tension between Cain and Abel?
- Where do you see “Cain like” attitudes in your life?
- Read verse 15 and compare that to Matthew 5:21-22. What is the principle that both John and Jesus are stressing? What inner quality do they desire believers to exhibit?

### *1 John 3:16-18; What love is!*

Read John 10:11-18. Before Christ is arrested, before Christ is crucified, Christ makes the assertion that He is the great shepherd and that He gives his life for the sheep. Not only did Christ come to be an example of love, but Christ laid down His life and died for us. John reiterates this. This is real love. Love is not about the talk, but about the walk; actions speak louder than words.

- What is John's define love in these verses?
- How does this definition differ from contemporary definitions?

- How can actively love your family? Your church? Your coworkers? Your enemies?

### ***1 John 3:19-24, Self examination and assurance***

To truly love others, we must begin within. We must be true to ourselves. As we slowly surrender to God, we must begin to investigate ourselves. Verses 19-20 assures us that no matter how we feel, God is greater than that. Even when we “feel” a certain way, God knows the true state of our heart. How often do we lie and disqualify ourselves based on the lies that we begin to believe about ourselves. Remember the assurance we have in Christ. It is only by His power, grace and mercy that we are able to come to Him. The work is His in us, all we must do is to obey, surrender and worship.

- Our heart and feelings can often mislead us. How have you been mislead or lied to by them?
- What are the truths that counter those lies?
- How can you begin to surrender and worship?
- Where is God asking you to obey him right now? How can your small group keep you accountable to do it?