

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

XXX CHURCH

Craig Gross

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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/

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!

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

“Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles us, and run with perseverancethe race marked out for us.”

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS –

Getting Started

Craig spoke about the addiction of pornography on Sunday. He spoke about the destructive and binding powers of it in the family, in the porn industry and in the lives of those who are addicted. We all have areas of our life that keep us from experiencing the life God has intended for us. Today we are going to spend time examining our lives and confessing our sins. As the memory verse in Hebrews says, we all are in a race and we need to throw off anything that holds us back from pursuing God. Unconfessed sin will slow you down in your pursuit of God and will hold you back from the life of purpose that God has for you.

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE– SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS AND ENCOURAGE THE GROUP TO PRINT THIS UP AND COMPLETE THIS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

1. REVIEW EVERY AREA OF MY LIFE.

What are we advised to do in Lamentations 3:40?

- What are the advantages for someone who takes a moral inventory of his/her life?
- 1 John 1:9 lists the benefits of confessing our sins to God. What are some common obstacles people face that keep them from confessing *all* sins to God?
- How can people show they are serious about God's blessing in their lives?

If we want God to be honest with us, we must be honest with him. The following outlines a method to 'get honest' with God:

1. GET ALONE – According to Habakkuk 2:1, what should we do once we are alone?
2. ASK GOD TO REVEAL MY SINS – How does Psalm 139:23-24 illustrate how to reveal our sins?
3. TAKE MY TIME – What does Proverbs 20:27 say God will do if we take our time?
4. WRITE IT ALL DOWN – What advantage do we gain by writing down our sins and examining them according to 1 Corinthians 11:31?

It is clear that God blesses us when we examine and confess our sins. How serious are you about God's blessing in your life? Take a few minutes to write down a sin that weighs heavily on you. Examine it. Why does it affect you so much? Have you confessed it to God before now? If not, why?

2. REPENT OF EVERY SIN.

What does Lamentations 3:41-42 point out as the next step after examining our sins?

- Repenting means trusting in God and being willing to change. How do we typically react when faced with the need to change?
- 1 John 1:8 illustrates how we can deceive ourselves in our way of thinking. What are some common misconceptions about hiding sin?
- Who else may be impacted when someone chooses to minimize or rationalize sin?

Confessing our sins is important, but repenting and changing our behavior is equally as important. God wants to see us change and become more like Jesus. What sin have you confessed multiple times? (This can be shared with the group or admitted privately) Take a few minutes to write down some steps to change your behavior and end the sin that is weighing on your life.

3. RESOLVE TO MAKE RESTITUTION.

According to Luke 19:8-9, Zacchaeus resolves to pay four times the amount to anyone he has done what to?

- What are some ways in which we feel cheated by others or ways we cheated another person?
- What do we believe can be gained by “cheating” others?
- What do we gain by making restitution and repairing relationships that may have been cheated?

Restitution is the act of restoring to the rightful owner something that has been taken away, lost, or surrendered. Make a list of the people or situations where you have taken away something that rightfully belongs to or hurt another person. What relationships need to be restored? What specifically can you do today to make restitution? Share your thoughts with your small group.

4. RECEIVE GOD’S FORGIVENESS.

In what way does Hebrews 4:16 tell us to approach the throne of God? What will we receive *and* find when we need it?

- We have permission directly from God to come to him when we need his forgiveness. Why do you think this is so difficult for us to do?
- For what things in our past do we need to receive God’s mercy?
- How do we benefit from receiving his grace?
- According to Romans 5:1, we are justified through our faith in Jesus Christ. What does this verse say we have as a result of God’s gift of forgiveness?
- What does it mean to be justified through faith? What does this look like in our lives?
- Why are there sins in our lives that we believe are “unforgiveable?”
- How do we ask God for forgiveness?

God gives us mercy to cover our past and grace to help us make future changes in our lives. Worship is doing those things that bring glory and honor to God. Asking him for the forgiveness of those sins which we believe are “unforgiveable” is an act of worship. 1 John 1:9 reminds us that we can confess our sins to God and he can be depended upon to forgive us and to cleanse us from our sins. In your personal prayer time with God this week, resolve to bring him your unconfessed sins so that you truly can receive God’s forgiveness and live just as if you had never sinned.

5. REVEAL MY FAULT TO A FRIEND.

James 5:16 reveals two life changing truths for those who desire to be healed – what are they?

- Why is it not natural for people to share their sins with others?
- In what specific ways would relationships be different were people more apt to share their sins with others?

In Psalm 32:1-2, the positive consequence for those whose guilt has been forgiven is happiness, relief and a record that has been cleared. For what purpose do you suppose God desires that we live a guilt free, joyful life?

- For those of you who have someone whom you can share your sins in confidence, 1) How did you arrange this; and 2) how do you maintain this relationship?
- For those of you who DO NOT have someone whom you can share your sins in confidence, 1) Why is this so; and 2) what actions steps might you employ to change this?

6. REPEAT THESE STEPS REGULARLY.

According to Hebrews 10:22, how are we able to draw near to God with a sincere heart, in full assurance of our faith?

- Why do you believe guilt is such a strong deterrent to sensing God’s connection in our life?
- Were all of your guilt suddenly replaced, this very instance, with forgiveness, peace, relief and happiness, and you were drawn near to God with a genuine heart in full assurance, how do you think this might change your outlook?

Discuss the reasons for why we must repeat the five (5) steps of **Path To A Fresh Start & Clear Conscience**? Now that we agree as to the “why” of maintaining a guilt free, forgiven life, what steps can you make today that will insure you will put this knowledge into practice?

PERSONAL APPLICATION AND COMMITMENT:

If you re-read the verses for each six points we have studied, there are many “us” references in each verse. The point is we are supposed to take these steps together, not alone. Through our church family, with our small group and with trusted spiritually mature people, we can be honest with ourselves, God and others. Through discipleship and fellowship, it assures that we have open communication to avoid concealing our sins. Sometime this week, take a personal spiritual inventory of your life.

Several bible verses reveal some important areas common to all believers:

Matthew 6:12-14 – Your relationships with others.

Matthew 6:33 – Your priorities.

Ephesians 4:31 – Attitudes.

Colossian 3:9 – Integrity.

Romans 12:1,2 – Your mind.

Acts 20:35 – Your money and possessions.

1 Corinthians 6:19,20 – Your body.

2 Corinthians 5:7 – Walking by faith.

Hebrews 10:25 – Your church family and ministry.

Joshua 24:15 - Your family.

Acts 20:24 – Your mission in the world.

Take the time and carefully review these areas. Confess your sin to God and ask forgiveness. Further, do you have a trusted spiritually mature friend to whom you can confess all your sins? If not, make it a point to pray for and seek one. If you do, contact them and share any sins that have been hidden since you have last connected.