

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

FAMILY OF ORIGIN - PART II

Family Business

Pastor Miles McPherson – September 16, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. For all Rock Church events, please visit <http://www.sdrock.com/events/>.
2. If you are still rusty with Groups 2.0, or are not using it at all, please check out our video tutorials on Leader Central that will walk you through the process. Moving forward it is important that we are all using the system effectively. Please contact john.darrow@sdrock.com or jason.mayer@sdrock.com if you have any further questions.
3. If you know somebody that is interested in stepping up to lead a Community Group please have them go to <http://www.sdrock.com/communitygroups/lead/> to fill out an application to get started today! Our next New Leader Orientation is September 30th from 2-4 in room 232, please contact john.darrow@sdrock.com for more information.

MEMORY VERSE

“Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” (Matthew 12:49-50 NIV)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

(Use one or more of the following opening discussion starters)

1. Review the Sunday Sermon
 1. Develop relationships based on a **covenant** not a contract. *John 15:13*
 2. Speak truth in love, without fearing **rejection**. *Ephesians 4:15*
 3. **Bear** one another's burdens. *Galatians 6:1-6*



COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS – FAMILY OF ORIGIN, PART TWO

Sermon Review and Introduction

We all have experienced the heartache of a relationship that was one-sided. The other person never gave you the same love and respect you always gave them. But you would tirelessly pour into them and love them and serve them and they freely accepted every time. And for some reason, in your mind this was reasonable and acceptable. These are typically give and take relationships, or as Pastor Miles referred to, “contract” relationships. However, the Bible is filled with only one acceptable form of relationship; covenant.

Covenant relationships are completely self-sacrificing by nature, but they are not toxic, and do not create victims. All throughout the Old Testament God was calling his people back to him because of their willful rejection of him. He would plead, judge, redeem, and restore. This occurred constantly because he had established a covenant with Abraham. The covenant was under God’s control, but required the obedience of the recipient of the covenant relationship. Then the climax of the Bible occurs when the promised Messiah (Gen. 3:15) is born, and set on a course to establish a permanent covenant relationship the world. However, there was a stipulation there as well. We repent of our sin, and submit to God through the person and work of Christ.

The study this week will center on covenant relationship and the discipleship process that stems from it. Potential learning outcomes for you group:

- What is the difference between a “covenant” and “contract” relationship?
- Your group should understand the importance of discipleship and how it compares to the importance of covenant relationship.
- Integrate “Covenant Discipleship” into your plan that you developed last week.

The following are the questions from the video study with supplemental questions and commentary to help guide your group discussion.

1. Discuss the difference between “Covenant” and “Contract” relationships. Why are “Covenant” relationships important for the health of the church?

Definitions:

Contract – Relationship based upon what one gets out of it.

Covenant – Relationship is based on a mutual submission and obedience to one another.

Look at the following passages that unveil the biblical covenant:

- Gen. 17:3-8 (Abrahamic Covenant)
- 2 Sam. 7:10-13; 1 Chron. 17:11-14; 2 Chron. 6:16 (Davidic Covenant)
- Heb. 9:11-15 (New Covenant)

1. What is the common thread between these three covenants?
2. Using our definitions above, how are they “covenant” instead of “contract” relationships?



The covenant between God and Abraham, David, and through Christ, was very unique and specific in fulfilling the necessary plan of redemption. However, the continuation of this applies to believers today.

3. Examine 1 John 2:3-11 as a group. How can we verify this covenant relationship is being executed in the church and why is it so important?

2. In Matthew 12:46, “Jesus explains the radical call of discipleship. How will “Covenant” relationships effectively prepare us for discipleship?

Look at one (or more) of the following passages about Christian discipleship:

- Matt. 12:46-49
- Mark 8:34-38
- Luke 14:25:34
- John 8:31-47

1. How does “covenant” relationship enable the execution if true discipleship?

3. Review the plan you discussed as a group last week. How will you integrate “Covenant Discipleship” into that plan?
 1. Discuss as a group your individual plan as discussed last week, and how you can integrate what we call “Covenant Discipleship” into the plan. Some potential things for discussion:
 - Not only should accountability be visible but also it should be a huge commitment. Most people make these sorts of commitments quickly, but are terrible on follow through. This is where commitment and covenant become real.
 - Help each other identify the relationships that should continue and others that may be toxic and need to leave behind. Also help each other identify the needs that need to be met in the relationships that are being committed to.
 - Obedience comes from knowing the Scriptures and diligent prayer. Commit to walking with one another in consistent growth in these areas. This can be as a group (recommended) or in smaller accountability groups. Either way commitment is the key.
 - Set reasonable goals. Help each other reach these goals. You don’t have to save the world 😊

