

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

FAMILY OF ORIGIN - PART IV

The Lost Child – 1 Kings 19:1-18

Pastor Miles McPherson – October 7, 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 October 28th from 2-4 in room 232, please contact john.darrow@sdrock.com for more information.

MEMORY VERSE

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom he created the world.” (Hebrews 1:1-2 ESV)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Review the Sunday Message
 1. **Listen** for God’s still small voice. *1 Kings 19:12*
 2. Draw **near** to God’s still small voice. *1 Kings 19:13*
 3. Be **led** by God’s still small voice. *1 Kings 19:14-18*



COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS – FAMILY OF ORIGIN, PART FIVE

Message Review and Introduction

This week Pastor Miles explained to us the third personality in our series; the loner, or the “lost child.” They are usually the shy one (though not all shy people are loners), and they have the tendency to withdrawal from reality. Many different things can contribute to this personality, but as believers our goal should always be the conforming to the image of Christ. Last week we looked at it from perspective of going from a “scapegoat” to one that finds their identity in Christ. This week we don’t want to lose focus of that concept.

In the description of the loner, Pastor Miles taught us about the story of Elijah from 1 Kings 19. He explained his struggle with Queen Jezebel and his fleeing after the destruction of the 450 prophets of Baal. But he dealt with the same fear and rejection that some people do. We also learned that God speaks through the “still small voice” (v. 13) but Scripture also tells us in Hebrews 1 that God culminated his communication to us in Jesus. As we continue in the study let’s be reminded of the new identity we have as well as discerning the truth of God as revealed through Christ.

This week we will be taking a closer look at the loner or “lost child.” Potential learning outcomes for your group:

- Identify “loner/lost child” type symptoms in our relationships. Who do we minister to those in this life stage?
- Have a clear understanding of how God speaks to us, and what this means for our identity (remember last week). Do we continue to bear our past issues and “loner/lost child” tendencies, or do we view ourselves as new creations in the redemptive process of a God that has spoken and still speaks to us?

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

1. Discuss with each other what the “loner” looks like in your own family. How has this person been typically treated and do you think it had an effect as to where they are at now?

Note: Consider the character of Elijah. Use him as a template of these attributes. Also look at his conversation with God in 1 Kings 19:14-18. How did he approach him, and what do you think he felt and why? Would you react the same way?

2. In 1 Kings 19, Elijah had a similar identity, being that he felt isolated and alone, as if he was the only one that loved and served God. Do you often get in traps of this similar form isolation and loneliness? How do we move out of this way of thinking?

Notes: It all goes back to identity and understanding exactly what Jesus did for us and how we can know and have confident in this truth.

1. Read Heb. 1:1-2 and ask the question, how did God speak through the prophets and how does Jesus speak to us today? Examples are...
 - A burning bush
 - A still small voice



- A vision in the temple
- Through family circumstances
- A basket of summer fruit (Amos 8:1)
- Visions & dreams
- Pillars of fire, clouds, smoke, donkeys, angels
- Of course now it is through the ministry of the Holy Spirit individually and corporately as explained through the Bible. The Bible's main goal (including the speaking of the prophets) was the person and work of Jesus; Luke 24:44.
- The story of Israel (all that happened in the OT) finds its fulfillment in the story of Jesus (the 4 gospel accounts).

2. Why is the answer to the last question important for our identity?

- Read Romans 6:1-14 as a group.
- Paul explains in Romans 6:1-14 that the fulfillment of the story is a removal of our slavery to sin, but now slaves to righteousness, that is, Jesus and his work on the cross.
- Paul uses the word "we" when describing our new allegiance from sin to righteousness, not the word "I" or "you" in v. 1-11. Then in v. 12-14 he uses the word "you(r)" which is in the plural not singular. This means it is a corporate activity not individual. Finding who we are as a "loner" or "lost child" requires a detachment from the core. Paul doesn't recognize that as an option. The corporate body of believers is key in our maturity in Christ.
- *** Reference Phil. 1:27-30, our (plural) minds are to be Christ-like. We do this "standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel." The body (or the church) can only be led by its head (Jesus). So we must lop off our heads and put on Jesus as the true head.

3. Discuss as a group how we can draw others out of a lifestyle of isolation and fear. Why is the role of Community Group important to do this?

1. Review, or blend this question with #2 above if necessary.
2. Consider the importance of Ephesians 5:22-33. The illustration uses marriage as a way to explain the true marriage between Christ and his Church (5:32). If Christ has high value for the redemption of his church, we should consider the redemptive process of extreme high importance.
3. Remember your plan from the first few weeks. How has discussion been in regards to the group coming closer together as a family? How can this lesson build upon or change your plan?

***** Check out Pastor Dave's blog on this subject from earlier this year*****

<http://blog.sdrock.com/pastors/2012/01/20/victory-depression>

Add'l Notes:



GROUP HANDOUT

1. Discuss with each other what the “loner” looks like in your own family. How has this person been typically treated and do you think it had an effect as to where they are at now?

2. In 1 Kings 19, Elijah had a similar identity, being that he felt isolated and alone, as if he was the only one that loved and served God. Do you often get in traps of this similar form isolation and loneliness? How do we move out of this way of thinking?

4. Discuss as a group how we can draw others out of a lifestyle of isolation and fear. Why is the role of Community Group important to do this?

