# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Miles McPherson January 22, 2006

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Rock Amplified:** How do you like your Sunday experience at the Rock? Would you prefer a more intimate venue? How about hassle-free parking? Maybe some time for fellowship after the message? Come check out Rock Amplified **every Sunday for the 9:45 AM and 11:30 AM services.** To be a ground floor member, serve at this new location, or for more information, stop by the Info Booth after service, or contact jong@therocksandiego.org or x240.

**Fusion Fellowship Ministry:** Featuring a Night with Damien Hobgood and Rocky Green on **Friday**, **February3.** Oh yeah! It's on. A fun night is coming so spread the word to your peeps. There will be people, art, food, and fellowship. This evening will be hosted by La Jolla Surfer's (<a href="www.lajollasurfers.com">www.lajollasurfers.com</a>) and FUSION, the Rock Church Fellowship Ministry. Join us at 627 Genter St. in La Jolla from 7:30 – 9:30 PM. Free, Fun, Life Changing!!! For more information about this event, contact Eddie Feuer at edwardonfire@yahoo.com or Herb Terrell at fellowship\_ministry@yahoo.com.

**Evangelism Ministry:** The purpose of the ministry is to evangelize San Diego through personal evangelism in a corporate setting. This ministry meets **every Saturday morning at 10 AM** at 5218 Mt. Alifan. Breakfast is served, followed by a short teaching from the Bible, worship, and then everyone heads out with tracts and Bibles to talk to people on the streets of Downtown San Diego. If you feel intimidated, please come along as a prayer warrior. Come along and be blessed!! For more information, contact Darren Hall at <a href="mailto:darren@bfintl.org">darren@bfintl.org</a> or 619-804-7741.

**Memory Verse:** 'And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. Mark 12:30

## What Are We Going to do in Small Group this Week?

This weekend we learned about the kinds of sacrifices God expected to receive from the Israelites. The following is an opportunity to present the same kinds of offerings to God.

### What are we actually going to do during small group this week?

Small Group Facilitator:

- Provide worshipful music (some suggestions are given below)
- Move the group through each step by praying or asking someone to use the prayer provided
- Give an example of your offering

#### Small Group Member:

- Prayerfully reflect and worship
- Journal or share your offering
- Prepare and present your own offering to God (a journal entry, recommitment, confession, praise, prayer, etc.) while worshiping and moving through the process of presenting an offering with the group



## What will the group time look like?

<u>Time</u>	Activity
00:00 -	Explain what will be happening this evening and how the activities will proceed.
00:05	
00:05 -	Using the verses provided, answer questions 1 & 2 below.
00:15	Review the kinds of offerings we present to God.
00:15 -	As a group, work through the "Focus on God" portion below by opening in prayer,
00:20	listening to an appropriate song, and spending time in reflection. You may choose to
	have a time when individuals share what God said to them during their time of
	reflection, or you may opt to have people simply journal or meditate.
00:20-	Continue in the same manner, working through "Ask God What He Desires From
00:25	You."
00:25 -	Work through, "Present an Offering." Provided a time for individuals to share what
00:40	they offered to God.
00:40 -	Acknowledge God's faithfulness and spend time in group worship and prayer.
00:50	

# Question 1: Why should we do this?

Read: Ephesians 2:5, Philippians 4:18, and I Peter 2:5

## Question 2: How are our offerings different than those of the Israelites?

Read: Hebrews 9:11-28

This passage explains how Jesus' death and resurrection took away the need for us to present a blood sacrifice to God; so we are inviting you to make a sacrifice of praise, song, worship, prayer, a journal entry, a commitment, or anything else that you can offer to God in an effort to cleanse yourself and approach the Holy Throne of Grace.

### How do we do this?

Below you will find a summary of the kinds of offerings as well as a resource you can use to walk through the process of making an offering to God. This is only a support tool. Follow it as precisely or generally as makes sense for your group.

### Offerings to Present to God

#### 1. **Offering your Life** (Dedication)

You may choose to present to God an offering of dedication if you want to recommit your life, acknowledge a lack of focus on God, and confess laziness or lack of discipline in your walk.

## 2. Offering of Thanksgiving

You may choose to present an offering of thanksgiving to God to acknowledge a blessing(s) you have received or to thank Him for salvation and new life.

#### 3. **Peace Offering**

You may choose to present a peace offering to acknowledge God's perfect plan for your life or the work he wants to do in a particular situation.



## 4. **Sin Offering** – Sin against God

You may choose to present a sin offering to confess faithlessness, anxiety, doubt, or another kind of offense against God.

#### 5. **Sin Offering** – Sin against another person

You may choose to present a sin offering to confess a wrong you committed against someone in your life.

#### Consider taking these steps....

#### **Focus on God**

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

I pray that in these next few minutes you would clear our minds of clutter and all that distracts us from taking in the fullness of your Glory, power, and majesty. I pray that you would transcend all the business of our lives, all the remaining things on our to-do lists, and all of the burdens that we carried as we walked through the door this evening. I pray that you would empty us so that you can move in us. Show us what kind of offering you would be blessed to receive from us.

Song: "Empty Me" Jeremy Camp, Empty Me

#### Ask God to Show You What He Desires From You

Prayer:

Father God,

I pray that in these next few moments you would reveal the area in our life where you want to move. Show us what we need to sacrifice before you – be it an offering of dedication, thanksgiving, peace, confession of sin against you or a confession of sin against one of your children. Show me what kind of offering I can present so that I break down anything that stands between you and me. I want to move closer, I want to grow more intimate with you. I want to experience you right now.

Song: "We Fall Down" Passion Band, Here I Am to Worship

### **Present an Offering**

Prayer:

God,

Now we want to move forward and present an offering that is fragrant and pleasing to you. Guide us in our offering and show us what you want us to do for you. We recognize that just by simply wanting to present an offering to you has triggered a spiritual attack. We pray that we would be strong in battle and not give in to the enemies' tactics. We pray that our offerings would be full and complete in your eyes.

Song: "We are Hungry" Brian Sites, More of You

Scripture for Each Offering:

- 1. Offering your Life (Dedication): Philippians 3:1-7
- 2. Offering of Thanksgiving: Psalm 116; 103
- 3. Peace Offering: Psalm 91



- 4. Sin Offering Sin against God: Jeremiah 14:1-9; 14:20-22
- 5. Sin Offering Sin against Someone: Psalm 143

## Suggestions for Offering:

- Something written in a journal
- A prayer spoken out loud or offered silently
- A song
- Sharing a testimony
- A commitment to do something
- Form an accountability partnership

## **Acknowledge God's Faithfulness**

Prayer:

God,

Thank you for the invitation to sacrifice. You alone can cleanse our hearts and renew our Spirits. Thank you for meeting with us here tonight. May our sacrifices not only be pleasing to you but serve as a reminder of our calling to your Kingdom as we leave this place.

Song: "Much of You" Steven Curtis Chapman, All Things New

