

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

FATHER'S DAY

June 17, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. For all Rock Church events, please visit <http://www.sdrock.com/events/>.
2. Let your friends know that they can always live stream the Rock Church Sunday worship experience by visiting <http://www.sdrock.com/live/>.
3. We are currently in the process of rolling out our new Area Leader and Coach leadership team for the Small Group ministry. If you are interested in joining this team, our could use the benefits of having a Small Group Coach, please contact john.darrow@sdrock.com.

MEMORY VERSE

“What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?” (Psalm 8:4 ESV)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

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

1. Do you truly see God as a loving father, or is it only a concept you have adopted?
2. Do you believe that God values you? Give practical examples and reasons why.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – FATHER'S DAY

Sermon Review and Introduction

This week we took a break from the Exposed sermon series to focus on the glory and trials of fatherhood for the Father's Day weekend. As a loving Father, God requires love and awe and respect, but he also reveals his love for his creation, namely, us!

In response to these two concepts, we will look at Psalm 8. This Psalm was written as a response from David after he killed the Goliath the Giant (1 Samuel 17). The story of David vs. Goliath paints an awesome picture of David as a God's representative to crush the enemy of his people. Israel



experienced this first hand as the Philistines were gaining ground and about to conquer them. But as we survey the whole of Scripture we are able to see that much more was accomplished. The story was actually a foretelling of how Christ would eventually come and crush his enemies once and for all on behalf of those whom he loves. As we turn to Psalm 8 lets allow our reading of this chapter focus on the majesty of God, but also this unique majesty of man.

The following questions will deal heavily with the topic of judgment and repentance rather than the breaking down of a certain text.

1. Briefly review these great literary structures by which David wrote this Psalm and the notes below:

Main Structure:

- A – “O Lord, our Lord...” (v. 1)
- B – The heavens (vs. 1-3)
- C – Humans (v. 4)
- B’ – The earth (vs. 5-8)
- A’ – “O Lord, our Lord...” (v. 9)

Majesty of Deity and Man:

- A – How (*mah*) majestic is YHWH (Lord)
- C – What (*mah*) majestic is man
- A’ – How (*mah*) majestic is YHWH (Lord)

Center of the Universe:

- B – Heavens above
- C – Humanity
- B’ – Earth beneath

- In the main structure we can identify that YHWH (Lord) is the beginning and ending of the Psalm. This shows us the importance of everything is centered on the sovereign Lord.
 - The main structure also provides insight into the creative process of God. By his fingers we created everything, and he has given us as humans the dominion of the works of his hands.
 - Finally David shows us that he recognizes that God is mindful of him. God recognizes him, sustains, loves him, and has given him a huge role in this lifetime.
 - Also note, that in v. 5 David states that God has made us “a little lower than the heavenly beings...” This word heavenly being is *elohim*. This is a tricky word that can mean heavenly being or angel; however, every time it is used in the Old Testament it means God. This gives us an important understanding as to the importance of man to God. 1 Cor. 6:3 states that humans are actually going to be judging angels. How can this be, isn't God the only one that judges? There is much more that can be said about this topic, but what is clear is that mankind has an important and particular role to play in God's redemptive plan.
 - The words “what” and “how” in Hebrew are the same word; *mah*. Why is this important? Because it allows us to see repetition in the text. Repetition highlights the purpose a biblical author is trying to make. In this case it is that God is majestic and man is also majestic in his state of a creative masterpiece of God.
2. Review v. 4, then look up Genesis 1:26-27 as a group. Based on these two passages what do you suppose it means to be an image bearer of God? Does this give you a greater sense of purpose, why?
3. Review vs. 3 and 6 as a group. What role do human beings have in God's creation? Is it an important one that should not be overlooked, or is it secondary in nature? Explain.
4. Read v. 5 and compare it with Hebrews 2:6-8 and 1 Cor. 15:27-28 as a group. We just looked at the importance of human beings, but what do these passages reveal about the supremacy of Christ? Discuss with the group how your view of Jesus is changed or how it has grown?

