

## Group Facilitation Guide

Series: (Re)Make: Rolling Away the Stone | Date: 24 April 2011

### WARM-UP

Option 1: Invite anyone in the group to share an answered prayer from the previous week.

Option 2: Invite the group to share a high and low from the previous week.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Prayerfully choose the points and questions that you feel would resonate most with your group.

**Key Scripture Passage:** Mark 16:1-8

This week's sermon was addressing the question: How do stones get rolled away?

1. **Identify the Stone/Issue.** *Read aloud **Luke 5:31-32** and **Psalms 27:7-8**.*

**Ask:** How did Jesus clarify his definition of what a 'sick' person (or one who can be helped by the Great Physician) looks like?

**Ask:** How does the psalmist give us a good example of a way to identify the stones in our life?

2. **Recognize your Need/Weakness.** *Read aloud **Ephesians 2:8-9** and **Psalms 33:13-22**.*

**Ask:** What role does scripture say God wants to play in our lives?

**Ask:** How has acknowledging your need/weakness in past experiences allowed God to demonstrate the attributes listed in Ephesians or the Psalm?

3. **Simply Trust God.** *Read aloud **Hebrews 11:1-3, 6**.*

**Ask:** What is the relationship between Faith and 'that which is visible'?

**Ask:** What is something you are hoping for but cannot see or conceive of a way for it to come about?

### TRANSITION TO PRAYER

Close the group by inviting people to pray. Invite them to pray aloud if they are comfortable doing so.

After a couple minutes of prayer close the prayer time by praying aloud.

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### VERSES

**Mark 16:1-8 (NIV)** When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

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**Luke 5:31-32 (NLT)** Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent."

**Psalms 27:7-8 (NLT)** Hear me as I pray, O Lord. Be merciful and answer me! My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming."

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**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

**Psalms 33:13-22 (NLT)** The Lord looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. From his throne he observes all who live on the earth. He made their hearts, so he understands everything they do. The best-equipped army cannot save a king, nor is great strength enough to save a warrior. Don't count on your warhorse to give you victory — for all its strength, it cannot save you.

But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine.

We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.

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**Hebrews 11:1-3, 6 (NIV)** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

**6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.