



Leading People into a Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Series: Rock Classics!

Message: "Rock On"

Scriptures: Hebrews 12:1, 1 Corinthians 15:33

Date: August 6-7, 2016

Learn

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

This message has to do with living out your priorities. What is your top priority in life? This Scripture helps the Jesus follower recognize two key principles: we must **ELIMINATE** what weighs us down and **CONCENTRATE** on what we are moving towards.

ELIMINATE: Here are some questions to help you evaluate what to eliminate or moderate in your life. These might refer to relationships, passions, activities, habits, etc.

- Does this (relationship, activity, etc.) help me draw closer to Jesus or move farther away?
- Does this enhance the fruit of the Spirit in my life? (see Galatians 5:22-23)
- Do trustworthy people in my life warn me about the impact it is having in my life?

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NLT) warns us that "bad company corrupts good character."

- Am I able to take breaks from it in my life in order to gain perspective?
- Does this go against God or my conscience?

CONCENTRATE: here are some self-evaluation questions to help you move forward with your church family:

- What do I need to concentrate on **LEARNING**?
- Where can I submit to the Holy Spirit's leading and other Christians' guiding in order to **LIVE** out what I have **LEARNED**?
- How can I actively show **LOVE** to God and others, through worship and service?
- Who am I preparing to **LEAD** into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ?

Live

The Holy Spirit is actively pursuing the creation of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in your life. Which one of those nine, as we were reading

them, did you skip over mentally? Here are some questions to help you think through that particular gift from God's Spirit:

- Why did you skip it—was it because you have much of it or because you question its relevance?
- State in your own words 1) what it means, and 2) why it is one of God's "top nine" characteristics.
- What in your life is dragging you down or tripping you up from experiencing more of it in your life?

Love

Is it harder for you to give a gift or accept a gift? If it is harder for you to accept a gift, you may feel more comfortable serving someone else than allowing God to serve you. True humility allows us to accept God's kindness and provision without having earned it. Accepting grace, God's kindness that is undeserved, is essential for your heart to be able to then turn and give grace freely to someone else who also does not deserve it.

Who could you serve this week who cannot serve you back? Remember, we owe a debt to God that can never be repaid, so we give freely as a gift!

Lead

Leaders simplify. They recognize the good and not-so-good things that drag them down, assess what trips them up, and eliminate hazards that will keep them from a full experience of loving Jesus, others, and themselves. What do you need to simplify in your life?

Leaders passionately pursue what is most important. What are you moving towards? How are you using your energy?

Pray!

Consider Paul's words to Christians:

Colossians 3:2-4 (NLT) Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

Acts 12 recounts that the Apostle James was killed and the Apostle Peter was miraculously rescued from a similar fate. While we may be tempted to look upon James with pity, it was he who won his race—he got to go be with Jesus forever. Peter got to re-enter the race. Pray for each other to run the race effectively until you cross the finish line!