

# Big Rocks, Part 2

Why Do We Do What We Do?

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sunday, January 26, 2025

## I. Rock #5 – Groups

Community groups are the very heartbeat of our church because we think the Bible teaches that people change and grow best at close range with other believers who can speak into their life and by using their own gifts to speak into someone else's life.

God created people for fellowship with Himself and with other human beings created in His image. We're relational beings because we're created in the very image of God!

**Hebrews 10:23-25** "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

You need to hear the stories of other believers and you need to rub up against other Christians at close range.

## II. Rock #6 – Serving Like Our Savior – Jesus

You're never more like Jesus than when you serve and give your life away for others.

**Mark 10:45** "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Jesus came to serve and to give His life away for others, and so, as His followers, our lives should also be characterized by serving and giving!

If God brought you to this church, and you say this is your church home, then where are you serving?

**Ephesians 4:11-12** tells us how to do church – it's not up for grabs and we can't just do it however we want.

**Ephesians 4:11-12** "He (Jesus) Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Most people miss out on living for what matters most, because they keep looking for something spectacular instead of stepping into the ordinary.

When Jesus wanted to teach us about serving, He left us with one of the most powerful but ordinary illustrations of washing feet.

A life lived for Jesus is a life that simply strings together what might look like dozens, if not hundreds, of insignificant and often inconvenient moments of serving others for a lifetime.

“Great opportunities often disguise themselves in small tasks. The little things in life determine the big things. Don't look for great tasks to do for God. Just do the not-so-great stuff...Before attempting the extraordinary, try serving in ordinary ways. There will always be more people willing to do 'great' things for God than there are people willing to do the little things...the field is wide open for those willing to be servants.”

~ Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*

### III. Rock #7 – God-Focused Worship

We want our worship here at Grace Fellowship to be God-focused. So, we put the emphasis on God - **His** glory, **His** grace, **His** cross, **His** sovereign rule, and **His** Son!

We tend to dwarf God, and magnify our problems, and it leads to all kinds of snares and pitfalls filled with fear, worry, depression, lust, anger, and greed. God-focused worship is a weekly adjustment, like meeting with a spiritual chiropractor!

**Job 26:7-9, 12-14** “He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing. <sup>8</sup> He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it. <sup>9</sup> He covers the face of His throne, and spreads His cloud over it...<sup>12</sup> He stirs up the sea with His power...<sup>13</sup> By His Spirit He adorned the heavens...<sup>14</sup> Indeed **these are the mere edges of His ways**. And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?”

“Very often when I've left a place of worship the first impression I have of the 'outside world' is how small it is - how puny its politics, paltry its appetites, squint-eyed its interests. I've just spent an hour or so with friends reorienting myself in the realities of the world – the huge sweep of salvation and the minute particularities of holiness – and would blink my eyes in disbelief that so many are willing to live in such reduced and cramped conditions. But after a few hours or days, I find myself getting used to and going along with its assumptions since most of the politicians and journalists, artists and entertainers, stockbrokers and shoppers seem to assume that this is the real world. And then Sunday comes around again...and I get it straight again, see it whole. Every call to worship is a call *into* the Real World.”

~ Eugene Peterson, *The Wisdom of Each Other*

### IV. Rock #8 – Sovereignty Of God

The sovereignty of God simply means that God is in total control, so everything that comes into your life is “Father-filtered.”

God limits, orders, and controls all things for His glory and our good.

The sovereignty of God means that God is in total control of all things – from the vastness of the universe to the smallest molecule, so that everything happens either because He directly causes it or consciously allows it. Everything. There is nothing random in this world!

**Psalm 115:3** "But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases."

**Job 42:2** “I know, O Lord, that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.”

**Romans 8:28-29** “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

**Revelation 19:6** “And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!’”