



## SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP: August 24, 2003

**Five Services at The ROCK!** Beginning **THIS SUNDAY**, August 31, service times will be 8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 5:30 P.M., and 7:15 P.M. If you are feeling the call to help serve alongside our Sunday crew, contact us at 858.455.7625.

**"LABOR DAY HARVEST 2003!"** Put some feet to your faith! Join us this **Saturday, August 30th at 11:00 A.M.** at Glen Park in Encinitas as we claim Cardiff by the beach in the name of Jesus Christ! Come by yourself or with your group, to BBQ, worship & spread the "Good News." For more information, contact [tommy@therocksandiego.org](mailto:tommy@therocksandiego.org) or ext. 256.

### **TITLE: "Let me First" – Pastor Dan Stolebarger**

**MEMORY VERSE:** And another also said, "Lord, I will follow you, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." **Luke 9:61**

### **SERMON REFLECTIONS**

- 1) Ethiopia claims that they are the only Christian nation in our day. What is a Christian Nation? Is our country a Christian Nation? Why or why not? How does our country need to change to become a Christian Nation? What can you do to facilitate this?
- 2) Define what it means to receive Jesus Christ as your savior. (**Luke 2:11, Acts 5:31, 1 Tim 4:10, 1 Jn 4:14**) What does it mean to make Jesus Christ Lord of your life? (**Mark 12:29, Acts 2:36, Acts 7:59**) Define the word Lord in this context. Have you made Jesus Lord of your life?
- 3) Read **Luke 9:57-58**. In this passage, we see a man who declared to Jesus that he would follow Him wherever he goes. Why do you think Jesus responded the way He did? Based on Jesus' response, do you think that the guy had counted the costs before he said what he said? One thought, "This mans enthusiasm, based on his feelings at the moment, would not be strong enough to sustain him during the trails that lay ahead." He would not be able to finish the race. Discuss this example, and how it relates to your life today.
- 4) Read **Luke 9:59-60**. What does it mean to let the dead bury their own dead? Is this man placing family responsibility in front of following God? Is this wrong? Why or why not? The response that Jesus gave him in verse 60 clearly indicates the responsibilities of a disciple of Christ. How does this apply to you today? What can you learn from this?

### **CLOSER WALK (1 John 4-5 & Jude)**

- 1) Recently our church was described as a VERB Church. Take some time to work through **1 John 3:24-4:19** and make a list of all the verbs that describe the church. Are you livin' it?
- 2) Read **1 John 4:20 - 5:6**. How do we validate, or prove, our love for Christ? Have you accumulated any evidence this week?
- 3) As a Small Group, read through Jude verse by verse out loud and discuss. This little book alone could provide discussion for a month of studies!

**"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."  
1 Thessalonians 5:11**