

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

More Faith  
July 2, 2006

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Summer Small Group Picnic** – All small groups are invited to this event! There will be barbequed lunch and games and tournaments for all ages. Hope you can come out with your small group and family to the Allied Gardens Rec Center on Saturday, August 5, 11 AM – 3 PM. More information following, but save the date! Want to help with the activities? Contact Laura Filbert at [lafilbert@yahoo.com](mailto:lafilbert@yahoo.com).
- **Interested in leading your own small group?** Ask your Small Group Leader about being an Apprentice or contact Carolyn York at 619.226.7625 x247 or [carolyny@therocksandiego.org](mailto:carolyny@therocksandiego.org).
- **Women...**do you want to get away for a weekend to relax, spend time with Jesus and other Christian women, and glean from dynamic and down-to-earth speakers? Join us for our annual Rock Women's Retreat "Extreme Makeover to Extreme Takeover," August 11-13. \$165. Register online at <http://www.therocksandiego.org/ministries/womens/womensretreat/>. Scholarships also available.
- **For all other Rock Announcements** please go to <http://www.therocksandiego.org/announcements/> or see the Rock Event Calendar at <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – MORE FAITH

### Getting Started

1. Have you ever had any bullies push you around? Romans 7:8-12 talks about sin like some kind of internal bully; like it springs up in us at times and pushes us around. Talk for a few minutes about how one might handle a bully, especially if it won't go away.

### Digging Deeper

Read Luke 17:1-10 in your group and then unpack a few thoughts from the passage.

2. What does Jesus warn us against in verses 1 & 2?
3. When Jesus referred to people causing others to sin (vv. 1-2), the language He used was that of a trap. In essence He was saying, "Don't be the stick that trips a snare or a trap for someone else."
  - In your experience, how are people tripping up others causing them to be ensnared in sin?
  - Do you feel like that is happening to you—like someone has created an opportunity (a snare of sorts) for you to sin?
  - Here's the hard part now. Think about some of the people in your life: family members, friends, co-workers, boy/girl friend. Is there some way you are leading others to sin?
4. Let's say for a moment that someone sins against you or causes you to become ensnared in sin. Based on verses 3, 4 what does Jesus say is the appropriate response to that?
5. Anglican pastor and poet George Herbert wrote, "He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass." What do you think he means?



6. Author Jerry Sittser lost his mother, wife and daughter (three generations of women in his family) to a drunk driver. Read his thoughts about that horrific loss. Do you agree with Sittser's conclusions regarding forgiveness? Why or why not?

*“During the months that followed the trial I thought often about the driver of the other car (who killed his family). I fantasized reading reports in the newspaper that he had died hideously.... It eventually occurred to me that this preoccupation was poisoning me. It signaled that I wanted more than justice. I wanted revenge...I realized at that moment that I had to forgive. If not, I would be consumed by my own unforgiveness.”*

7. The apostles responded to Jesus' command to forgive with a request for more faith. They believed that the key to a forgiving spirit was an increase in faith. How does increased faith in God make us more forgiving? By having faith in God (in response to the sins against us) what are we expecting Him to handle for us?

### **Bringing it Home**

8. Think for a moment about the different ideas brought up in this passage: stumbling spiritually, causing others to stumble spiritually, forgiveness, living by faith, doing one's duty, etc... Which issue seems most relevant in your life?
9. Have you ever thought about how “sins against you” have affected you? Over the years, you've most likely had people in your life wrong you. Read the following quotes on forgiveness from Lewis Smedes and answer the question: If there are people in your life you haven't yet forgiven, what affect might that have on you?

*“Our resentment gets into our bloodstream and is as hard to get out as a spoonful of ink from a glass of water. Our rage weaves itself into the texture of our spirits. We become the pain we feel. (Writing of an unforgiving man) “He is his bitterness. He breathes it, sleeps with it, and will probably die with it. In fact, he may die of it; the poison has splattered his organs, and an ulcer now bleeds on the lining of his once healthy stomach.”*

10. The apostles believed that the key to “habitual forgiveness” was faith in God. They believed that forgiveness would only become our relational reflex when we place more trust in God. If you were to forgive an offender in your life what are some of the issues you would have to hand over to God? Read one last quote before you answer that:

*“...forgiveness is costly. Forgiving people must give up the right to get even, a right that is not so easy to relinquish...However difficult, forgiveness in the end brings freedom to the one who gives it. Forgiving people let God run the universe. They let God punish wrongdoers as he wills, and they let God show mercy as he wills too. That is what Job and Joseph came to.... That is also what Jesus decided...” - Jerry Sittser*