

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Road Trip
July 16, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Summer Small Group Picnic** – We hope you, your small group, and family can join us on Saturday, August 5, 11 AM – 3 PM at the Allied Gardens Park for barbequed lunch, fun, fellowship with other small groups, and games for all ages. Don't delay; buy your lunch tickets at the Rockpile Store now until July 23. Adults (11+) are \$7; kids (6-10) are \$3; kids 5 and under are free. Want to help with the activities? Contact Laura Filbert at lafilbert@yahoo.com.
- **KidsGames** – Join our K-5th graders at Admiral Baker Park, 9 AM - 12:30 PM, July 24-28, for sports, music, games, and 5 days of value-based fun! Volunteers are needed. To register your child or for more information, call 619.226.7625 x292.
- **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 carolyn@therocksandiego.org.
- **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 – ROAD TRIP

Getting Started

Pack up your gear, grab a bottle of water, and head out to the car—we're going on a road trip!

By definition road trips are about much more than the destination; they're about the process of traveling somewhere. They are about learning from unique experiences encountered along the way. It's not just about the final destination alone; it's also about the journey. That's what makes road trips so special.

The Jewish people went on a road trip of their own and that's what we read about in the book of Numbers. When they started out it was all about the destination. God told them, "I've got a home for you and it's only a few days away." He promised them all of Canaan, the entire Promised Land, but they weren't ready for the destination. They needed a road trip. When they looked over the fence at their new land (and the people living there) the Israelites didn't believe God could really come through on His promise. They believed the people already in the land were too big and powerful and that there was no way for them to become the new owners. Doubt spread among the people and the Israelites showed that their faith in God was inferior to their doubts and fear. As a result, they ended up on a 40 year road trip through the desert.

Do you get it? When they chose not to trust God He told them to forget about the final destination because they needed a road trip. Sometimes we don't get God's final destination because we won't follow, and that's when He will send us on a road trip of our own.

Getting Started

1. Can you recall a time in your life when looking back, you see how one experience prepared you for the next experience? Share one of those moments.
2. Have you ever jumped into something and realized later you were not as prepared as you could have been? What was the result? Would it have been possible to be more prepared?

3. Have you ever asked God for something specific and you knew His answer was, “later” or “wait until you’re ready”? How did it all play out?

Digging Deeper

Studying the book of Numbers is an opportunity to reflect on how God is preparing us—how He is helping us become who He needs us to be.

4. God has a plan for us. What do these verses teach us about God’s vision for our spiritual lives? What does he want from us?
 - a. I Peter 2:2
 - b. 2 Peter 3:17-18
 - c. Ephesians 4:14-16
5. Sometimes we experience a tension between planning our own road trip and letting God lead us. What does the Bible say about pursuing God’s transformation of our lives and stepping back and letting Him do the work?
 - a. Psalm 37:23-24
 - b. Psalm 3:3-6
 - c. Psalm 119:105
 - d. Psalm 19:7-11
 - e. Luke 11:9-10
 - f. John 16:13
6. Can you think of a time when you ignored God’s plans and decided on your own road trip? How did that go?
7. God asks for us to surrender our vision for our lives and give him complete control. How do these verses encourage us to find peace in doing that?
 - a. Jeremiah 29:11
 - b. Romans 8:28
 - c. II Corinthians 4:7
8. Read Romans 8:29 using *The Message* paraphrase:

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.

Bringing it Home

9. We are a work in process—sometimes it's painful, there's no doubt about it. However, sometimes we make it more painful than it has to be. How has God used pain and difficulty in the past to shape you? How can you posture your life to thrive in the midst of growing pains? What can you do to prevent yourself from getting in the way of God growing you up?

10. In what way have you seen God change your life through different experiences and circumstances? Can you testify to God having a purpose and a plan for the events of your life?

11. Why is it important to let go of *our* vision and cling to God's vision for our life?

12. If you are on a road trip right now to a destination God has in mind what might that trip look like? What are some of the events you might go through? Who are some of the people you might meet along the way?