

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## Numbers, Part 2

August 6, 2006

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Summer Small Group Picnic** was a success! Be sure to check out the pictures on the Rock website at <http://www.therocksandiego.org/pictures/>.
- **Mark your calendar for our next Leadership Event!** All leaders, hosts, apprentices, and leaders from other ministries are invited! Friday night, September 22 will be an “Experiencing God” event with great worship and a guest speaker. Saturday, September 23, morning and afternoon will be filled with practical how-tos related to your ministry. You’ll not want to miss this opportunity to sharpen your skills as a leader, so be sure to block out your calendar with these dates. More details to come.
- **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 – LEAVE YOUR JUNK BEHIND

### Getting Started

Walk into any airport and you will likely find a display of listed items you are not allowed to pack in your suitcase or carry on the plane with you. Safety and security drive the regulations and the airport authority has decided that prohibiting these items makes air travel safer for us all.

In much the same way, God has told us there are things we cannot bring on our road trip. In essence, God has told us it’s not spiritually safe to hang onto the sinful habits in our lives. His reason being that any kind of sin will prevent us from experiencing all He has to offer, teach, and bestow upon us during this road trip. Any sin hidden away neatly in our suitcase could prevent us from entering the richness of His blessing—it will likely prevent us from entering the promise land.

Consider this week a trip through the airport security check-point. It’s an opportunity to unpack your bags and see what is hidden inside, so you can leave it behind and move forward on this journey.

### Getting Started

1. Things get packed accidentally all the time. Maybe the suitcase wasn’t cleaned out entirely from the last trip. Sometimes things get left in the pockets of pants and shorts without even knowing it. The same is true in our packing for our spiritual journey with God. Brainstorm together a list of things (i.e. some of those sinful habits) that could easily be packed without the traveler even knowing it (e.g. resentful attitude, disobedient spirit, etc.).
2. Sometimes, prohibited items get packed on purpose. What drives us to try to take things with us that we know will slow us down spiritually and maybe derail our trip? In other words, what causes us to cling to disobedient patterns in our lives?

### **Digging Deeper**

3. Luke 18:18-23 is the story of a young man whose suitcase was full of things he couldn't take and when Jesus asked him to empty his luggage, the man went away very upset. Read this passage. What did Jesus ask the man to do? Why was this upsetting to him? Why do you think it strikes a nerve with us still today?
  
4. Read the story of the adulterous woman in John 8:1-12. Jesus commanded her to leave her life of sin behind as she began her journey with Him. Why did he command her to do this? How was His command different from the approach of the Pharisees? What comfort can we take from this passage?
  
5. Saul, whose name was later changed to Paul, did more than just unpack his suitcase; he left it behind and got a new one. Read Acts 9:1-22. In this passage, you'll find everything Saul knew from his life completely stripped away. Consider the depth of this experience for Saul. What was Saul facing by changing his life completely? What dangers might he encounter? What risks was he taking?
  
6. What promise do we find in Acts 9:22? How is Saul's experience both an example of courage and God's grace?

### **Bringing it Home**

7. When we are asked to start parting with things precious to us we are given a glimpse of the depth (or shallowness) of our surrender to Jesus. Our response reveals where we have placed our trust and security. Take a minute to reflect on what you need to unpack from your suitcase. What have you learned about where you have placed your trust and security?
  
8. Taking this step of unpacking your suitcase will bring your surrender to God to a new level. But it requires letting go so that God can fill the void. What confidence and comfort can you gain from this passage: John 4:14.
  
9. You will likely be tempted to "pick up" what you left behind. What can you do now to prepare yourself for that temptation?