

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Numbers, Part 5

August 20, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Mark your calendar for our upcoming Leadership Conference!** All small group 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, 6:30-9 PM. Saturday, September 23, 8:30 AM - 4 PM 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 on these dates. More details to come.
- **Small Group Leaders** - We need your Information Gathering Sheet and Bio/Testimony Form by next Monday, August 28. Contact Andy Rodgers at andy@therocksandiego.org or 619.226.7625 x242.
- **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/>.

MEMORY VERSE

But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. Numbers 14:24

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – ARE WE THERE YET?

One thing we see all through the Bible is God leading His people. The obvious implication is that God has a plan for our lives. This weekend Pastor Miles talked about God leading the Israelites to the border of their Promised Land and told them, “Go get it!” The really shocking thing, though, is that the Israelites decided to take a pass on the Promised Land.

They arrived at their final destination (so to speak) and they simply chose not to go in. God was leading them, but they decided to opt out of God’s plan and as a result, they wandered for 40 years away from their intended purpose.

Stop and think about your own life for a moment now. Maybe we aren’t much different from the Israelites. To what has God been leading you? What is God’s purpose for your life? “Getting there” means actively accepting God’s purpose for your life. Let’s look at what that means for you.

Getting Started

1. Has there been a time in your life when you felt potently led by God; like you were hearing Him loud and clear? What was that like for you? Maybe that time is right now.
2. Suppose a friend or family member came to you and told you that God was leading them to do some extreme things. Maybe they believed God was telling them to take a one year short term mission; maybe they were convinced that God was telling them to...fill in the blank. What would you tell them?

Digging Deeper

3. Think about the Israelites again for a moment. What had they come through in the months before they were standing at the border of the Promise Land? Read the following passages and summarize some of the ways they had actively experienced God at work in their lives.
 - a. Exodus 12:31-36
 - b. Exodus 14:19-31
 - c. Exodus 16:9-18
4. Look back at your own life again for a moment. Think about the times when you've seen God "show up" loud and clear in your life. What is some of the evidence that indicates God has been at work in your life? Has God used special relationships, circumstances, or messages to show up in a big way?
5. When faced with the decision whether or not to enter the Promise Land the Israelites listened to both the 10 negative spies and the 10 positive spies (Joshua and Caleb). Read Numbers 14:1-9 and summarize what Joshua and Caleb told the people.

Bringing it Home

6. Look back at that very first question - "*Has there been a time in your life when you felt potently led by God; like you were hearing Him loud and clear?*" Now a moment of truth; did you say "no" to God's leading back then? Are you wandering now because you chose not to accept God's "Promise Land" (His purpose) for you?
7. Has God walked you up to a "Promise Land" experience in your own life? What would it look like for you to follow God right now?
8. Pastor Miles said that we say, "yeah...but" to God. We will acknowledge what He is asking us to do and then give God a reason why we shouldn't follow Him. We say things like, "**Yeah**, God, I know you want me to tell my friends about you, **but** what will they think of me?" Or maybe we say, "**Yeah**, God, I know you want me to be involved in a ministry, **but** I'm just so busy." What are some of the "buts" that keep you from courageously following God's direction in your life?