

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Numbers, Part 6

August 27, 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.
- **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

For exaltation comes neither from the east, nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another. Psalm 75:6-7

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – FOLLOW THE LEADER

If you’ve ever experienced an elementary school classroom preparing for a field trip, you probably heard the teacher giving the students specific instructions on how to behave. Likely, the teacher went through several scenarios for disobedience – and the possible justifications for the behavior. For example:

1. Do not hit the head of the person standing in line in front of you – *even if the person behind hit you first.*
2. Do not throw anything – including the banana from your lunch – out of the bus window...*even if it was rotten and you did not want to eat it.*
3. Do not wander from the group at any time during the field trip – *even if you thought you saw a miniature brontosaurus.*

And the list likely went on. But usually the discussion ended with something like, “This field trip is a big deal and you are representing me, the school, and your family. Do your best to make all of us proud.”

Through the example of Moses in Numbers 16, we get the same kind of instructions. It’s as if God is saying through Moses’ example, “We’re going out on a trip now. You are representing Me in all you say and do, and I have specific ways I want you to behave that are different than the way other people behave. You have a relationship with Me and no matter how you think you can justify your actions; I want you to live differently.”

Moses’ example in leadership depicts what it looks like to walk with God – *even when we think we can justify our disobedience.*

Getting Started

1. We get messages from every part of our culture that tell us to look out and protect ourselves. How is this contrary to what God expects of us? Can you identify specific ad slogans that send messages that help us to justify our disobedience?

2. As we begin to “dig in,” start to consider an area of your life where God is asking you to stop justifying your disobedience and start simply obeying – no matter how much you feel you are entitled to do things the way you want.

Digging Deeper

3. Consider Ruth in Ruth 1:1-18. Ruth followed the decrees God set forth for His people, even when she might have been, from the world’s perspective, justified to do things differently.
 - a. Based on her behavior, what do you think was the most important thing to Ruth?
 - b. In what way was she given an “out” to obeying God? Ultimately, what did she do?
 - c. What can we learn from Ruth’s example about obeying God, rather than justifying what we think we deserve?
4. Read Mark 14:1-9. In this passage, Jesus disciples justify their opposition to this women’s behavior.
 - a. What was the basis for their opposition? Does their opposition seem justifiable?
 - b. What was Jesus reply?
 - c. What is the message Jesus sent to them and ultimately, to us?
5. Jesus is the perfect example of obeying even when it seems appropriate to justify disobedient behavior (Philippians 2:5-11). hrough the triumphal entry, Jesus is the picture of humility and obedience. Read Matthew 21:1-7.
 - a. What kind of animal did Jesus use to make His entrance?
 - b. In what way was this contrary to what He deserved?
 - c. What was Jesus ‘attitude? How is this an example for us?

Bringing it Home

The Kingdom of God is not about what we are entitled to, what others deserve (or don’t deserve) from us, or how we think things *should* be. It’s simply about obeying God and adopting His principles for our behavior.

6. Take a minute to honestly consider a situation or relationship that you can easily justify disobedient behavior. How is God calling you to act in these circumstances?
7. If you were resolved to live this week by the rules of God’s kingdom, how would your thoughts or actions change?