

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Numbers, Part 9
September 24, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Foundations in Leadership** class begins next Tuesday, October 3. For more information or to register, log onto www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/2162.
- **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

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31-32

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – LEAVING A SPIRITUAL LEGACY

This week we are talking about the legacy we leave. So I did a quick Google search for “leaving a legacy.” In .13 seconds I was presented with about **5,700,000** different websites. How’s that for significant? Clearly, as a society we are highly interested in leaving a legacy. While I wasn’t exactly surprised by the number of websites on the subject, I was intrigued to find that nearly all the sites had to do with donating money to charitable (or not so charitable) organizations. And I began to think...have we become so consumed with possessions that our legacy is solely defined by what we have or don’t have? Is that what it means to leave a legacy?

We are hard-wired to want to leave a legacy, which explains the five and a half million Google “legacy” websites options. And because we have this natural drive, we can anticipate that our Enemy will want to distort that natural desire God has created in us.

Today’s discussion is not about wealth or money. It’s not about materialism or fame. Today we want to consider what God has said about leaving a legacy and how as Christians we should frame our thinking around this topic.

Getting Started

1. What do you think of when you think of “leaving a legacy”? Is there a particular person you know who left a significant legacy (for better or for worse)? Who has had a lasting impact in your life (again, whether good or bad)?
2. In your opinion, why is it important to leave a legacy? Who does it benefit? What good does it do?

Digging Deeper

As Christians, one of the most basic and perhaps important questions we can ask when considering this topic is: How do I insure that the legacy I leave glorifies God?

3. Hebrews 11 is a “famous” chapter in the Bible that outlines the heroes of faith. Talk about leaving a legacy! Take a minute to read this chapter, taking special note of verse 40. What can we learn about the purpose and calling of leaving a Christian “legacy”?
4. While Hebrews 11 is well known, Hebrews 12:1-3 is less known--although it is best understood in light of the message of Hebrews 11. Read these verses. They give us great insight into what it means to leave a legacy for God. List the commands given and the language the author uses.

- a. "...throw off..." vs. 1
- b. "...sin that so easily entangles..." vs. 1
- c. "...the race marked out for us..." vs. 1
- d. "...fix our eyes..." vs. 2
- e. "...author and perfecter of our faith..." vs. 2
- f. "...so that you will not grow weary..." vs. 3
- g. How do these verses and phrases shape the way we should think about leaving a legacy?

5. Paul speaks with great passion and conviction about the legacy he wants to leave in Philippians 3:7-10. If you had to fill in the blank, what would you say?

"The apostle Paul purposed to leave a legacy of _____."

No matter what specifically you or your group decide to put in the blank, what Paul was striving to do was nothing more than supernatural. However, Paul had a game plan. Read verses 12-14 and write down the "instructions" Paul left for leaving such a legacy.

6. Consider Matthew 6:19-21. Here, Jesus tells us that where our treasure is there our heart will be also. Why would this teaching be significant in a conversation about leaving a Christian legacy?

Bringing it Home

So the obvious concluding question is: What kind of legacy do you want to leave, and what are you going to do in your life to accomplish that objective? Those are big questions. Take a minute to prayerfully consider that. Right down what you and God discussed in that conversation.

But the topic of leaving a legacy should not just end with "what kind of legacy are you going to leave?" The topic must be framed in by the question, "What kind of legacy does the world encourage you to leave and is that different than what God has called you to do?" Consider these statements:

Leaving a Christian Legacy is:	Leaving a Christian Legacy is NOT:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making God your master 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining and claiming your own destiny
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursuing a life of faith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simply being praised at your funeral
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
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What else would you add to this list? What is different about leaving a legacy from a Christian perspective than a worldly perspective?

One last thing: write down some of the names of those who would be the direct receivers of your spiritual legacy. It could be your children, students, small group members, friends, etc. Who does God bring to your mind?