

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

You Give Them Something to Eat
Pastor Mark Collins
February 25, 2007



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have you RSVP'd for *Imagineering* yet? If not and you are planning on attending, can you register online by this Friday, March 2? Go to www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/2658 or contact Andy at andy@therocksandiego.org or 858.268.1366 x2012.

Here's an opportunity for your small group to work together: The Miles Ahead Annual Dinner and Auction is coming up and they are asking for help from Rock Small Groups. Can you put together a gift basket to donate for the Silent Auction? For more details, ask Carolyn York to send you the flyer: carolyny@therocksandiego.org.

Women of the Rock: Tea Party - Sign up to be a table hostess for the annual women's tea to be held from 2-4 PM on Saturday, April 28. For more information on hosting a table, contact Tiffany Walton at fanciwal@hotmail.com or 619.379.6105.

For all other Rock events, please go <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

MEMORY VERSE

...you are working together and struggling side-by-side to get others to believe the "Good News."
Philippians 1:27b (CEV)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – RE-ENTERING THEIR WORLD

Please Note: The following questions do not parallel the weekend message due to our guest pastor.

In every aspect of life, "we" is more powerful than "me." God has designed this world to demonstrate power in partnerships. That's especially true when it comes to telling the world about Jesus. Evangelism is always a team effort even though at times it feels that we're working alone. For the reality is, when we lead someone to Christ, the Holy Spirit has already been at work, drawing people to God's Son. We are commanded to *work together as partners who belong to God* (1 Corinthians 3:9, NLT) because *two can accomplish more than twice as much as one* (Ecclesiastes 4:9).

That's one of the greatest values of small groups: they allow us to work side-by-side in an effort to lead our friends and family members to Christ. The Bible tells us that our greatest witnessing tool is our *love for one another* (John 13:35). Yet, it's easy to allow the small group experience to become more about the "insiders" than caring for those who are "outside" the faith.

In fact, the longer we're believers, the further removed we often become from the world that unbelievers live in. It's easy for us "insiders" to see the world as immoral, as something that endangers our purity. But Jesus challenged His disciples to meet the needs of "outsiders" by providing one of the most basic of human needs, for He commanded them, "You give them something to eat." (Mark 6:37)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever been given an assignment at work or school in which you felt totally unable to accomplish? Ask a couple group members to share their stories.
 - a. How did this assignment make you feel? What did you do?
 - b. What was at stake if the assignment wasn't completed? Did the importance of the task put added pressure on you?
2. How did this task make you feel about the person who gave you the assignment? Was it fair?

Digging Deeper

3. Read Mark 6:36-44. Spend some time in your group trying to identify with the people in the story.
 - a. What did the scene look like?
 - b. Where had the disciples been prior to this story (Mark 6:29-31)?
 - c. How do you think Jesus' small group was feeling at this time?
 - d. What about the crowd? Why were they there? What do you think they were thinking, feeling, needing?
4. At this particular time, Jesus' small group seemed emotionally and spiritually spent. They had just buried Jesus' first cousin and partner in the ministry. They must have remembered what Jesus had said about him, "*Truly I say to you, among those born of woman there has not risen anyone greater*" (Matthew 11:11a). Could they have been thinking that standing up for Jesus will get you killed?
5. Do you think that Jesus' command, "You give them something to eat," was unfair? Do you think that God's command of reaching the lost is unreasonable or unfair?

4. Do your needs and circumstances tend to dull your heart towards the needs of others? Why or why not?
 - a. Why do you think Jesus wanted to know what were the available resources?
 - b. What resources does your group currently have that God could multiply to meet the greatest need of others?

5. What are some of the obstacles in the way of your small group becoming others focused?

Bringing it Home

God wants to use your small group to reach the world for Jesus Christ. If you want to know God's plan for solving the world's problems look around the room. You're it. You are God's plan...God works through His people through physical tangible demonstrations of compassion, mercy and care.

6. What do you think about the above statement? Does it excite you, scare you, or overwhelm you? Why?

7. Spend some time together seeking God to multiply the resources that you already have. Begin asking God to soften your heart towards the needs and burdens of others. Second, ask God to prepare the hearts he's trying to reach (He usually softens people's hearts by sending rain in their lives). Third, pray for opportunities to talk about Jesus. And fourth, pray *that the Master's Word will simply take off and race through the country to a groundswell of response (2 Thessalonians 3:1 MSG)* just as it did among early Christians.

8. Now be inventive and plan a way to introduce the people you're praying for to come to your group; maybe have a barbeque, a movie night, a game night, dessert night—the possibilities are endless.