

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Extreme Home Takeover, Part 1

Pastor Miles McPherson

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hope to see you this Friday at *Imagineering!* You can still sign up online at 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.

Men's Purity Small Group - Are you looking to bring more purity into your life? Working to stay clear-minded and focused on things of Heaven, not on the "stuff" of this earth? A new small group, designed specifically for men seeking a deeper walk with the Lord through purity is now available. For more information, contact Dale Bacon at 323.481.8216 or deepfarmcountry@gmail.com.

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

MEMORY VERSE

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES

Since the beginning of time mankind has asked the question, "Where do leaders come from, are they born or are they made?" Certainly, from our human perspective some compelling questions persist: "Why does God use some people for leadership and not others?" "With so many people in the world claiming to be Christ followers, why doesn't God work powerfully through each one?" "Wouldn't an overpowering display of God's power through many Christians cause every knee to bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord?"

Contrary to human logic God does not work in this way. He is selective in who He uses. In fact, history paints a picture of how God uses ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary purposes throughout

time. Since we know that God is still capable of transforming ordinary people into powerful instruments for His glory, are there other factors that affect God's divine choice?

One thing's for sure, the question is not about God's *capability*, it's about our *availability*. Are we prepared to make the necessary adjustments in us so His power can be manifested through us? There has never been a time in the history of the world and the Rock Church when ordinary people of faith need to put themselves in the hands of an extraordinary God.

As we embark on our new study in Joshua, *Extreme Home Takeover*, we'll take a week to look back at some of the key circumstances that God used to mold Joshua to become all that God wanted him to be. Joshua faced extreme trials and obstacles, yet God used these painful circumstances to form Joshua's character and give him courage. God is still looking for those who are willing to see life's obstacles as necessary 'stepping stones' to experience God's will for our lives. The question still remains for all Christ-followers: "Will you rise up and take the land that God has prepared for you or will you wander in the wilderness of disbelief?"

Getting Started

When Joshua gave his minority report and recommendation after spying out the land of Canaan no one listened to him (see Numbers 14:6-10). In fact, God's people wanted to stone Joshua. Later, when he became Israel's supreme commander, leading the people to take their future home no one questioned him (see Joshua 1:16). Have you ever wondered what caused the incredible difference?

1. Can you share a time when you stepped out in leadership and felt rejected? What were the circumstances and how has this affected you?
2. What are some of the obstacles (in your past and present) that seem to keep you from taking a step toward leading others?

Digging Deeper

Read Exodus 3:7; 5:4-18. From the casual observer, Joshua's early life wouldn't lead someone to believe that he was destined for greatness. His father and grandfather were slaves. They had no access to education, possession of property, or even freedom of movement. Joshua understood suffering. He felt first hand the cruel treatment from the Egyptian taskmasters. Despite such humble and even brutal beginnings Joshua held on to hope.

3. Despite incredibly cruel circumstances, how do you think Joshua made it through tough times?
4. Read Genesis 49:22-26 (A promise to the Israelites that God would eventually make them a great nation). Joshua's actions (when he urged the Children of Israel to take the land) would lead us to believe that he trusted in a God who keeps His promises. Can you share with the group some promises of God that you are holding onto that may have not yet come to pass?

5. In Joshua's day, the Israelite people revered their elders (that's one of the reasons why they rejected the advice of Joshua and Caleb and followed older men who wanted to return to Egypt). Can you think of other obstacles to leadership that Joshua faced?
6. Can you list some other people that God used despite their youth (for some help, see Jeremiah 1:5-7, Luke 1:26-37, 1 Timothy 4:12).
7. How did God use Joshua despite the sins of others? It could have been easy for Joshua to embrace the faithless attitudes prevalent among influential leaders; yet he followed God and his convictions even if he stood alone.
8. Sometimes emerging leaders limit their future possibilities by their impatience, how did Joshua demonstrate his humility by waiting on God?
9. In the first chapter of Joshua, God tells his new general to "be strong and courageous" four times. What fears do you think were running through Joshua's mind?
10. God wants to use great transition times in our lives to mold our character and prepare us to "take the promise land" He has prepared for us. How do you think that God used the forty years of wandering to develop Joshua?

Bringing it Home

God used Joshua despite his past, youth, other people's sins and times of transition that were beyond his control. We have the opportunity to be used like Joshua. Success does not hinge on our heredity, but on our heavenly Father. It does not depend on what others do, but on what we *choose* to do. True success is determined by how we respond to the circumstances God allows us to experience. God can use your life significantly: Are you prepared to let Him?

11. Think about your past, how do you think God wants to use your life's obstacles as "stepping stones" for the future?

12. Are you presently in a time of transition? How are you currently making good use of your time? How will you be a better person after the transition?

13. As Joshua waited on God, he served. Looking at your past and present situation what is God calling you to do? How can the group help you get started?

14. Presently, the people of the Rock church stand at a pivotal point. The building is not the Promised Land, San Diego County and the world has been set before us. Many of you who have been experiencing community in small groups need to be “strong and courageous” and ask the Lord if its time to multiply your group. Will you come together to the Imagineering event March 9, 7:30-9:30 PM at the Ruffin Sanctuary to hear how your group can “take the land for Jesus?”