

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## A Study of Joshua

Questions written by Pastor Mark Collins

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## MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

As “small groupies,” you are the heart and soul of this ministry--who better than you to lift up the Small Group Ministry in prayer? So, it's up to you, you can spend time in your small group praying for these things (weekly or occasionally), or you can pray during the week on your own time. And if you'd like to be added to our Pastor's Prayer Team(s), just let us know. John Dehnert, Mark Collins, or Paul Garrison, our small group pastors, would love your prayers! We send out a monthly email of their personal and ministry prayer requests. Just contact Andy Rodgers at [andy@therocksandiego.org](mailto:andy@therocksandiego.org). May God work through your prayers mightily!

**Reaching the Lost:** Can you pray that God would continue to give you and your small group opportunities to share Jesus with those far from Him? Pray for the courage and wisdom to know how to build relationships with them.

**Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups:** We had over 700 people sign-up to be in a small group! Woohoo! Can you pray that these people would get plugged into the right group and follow through with their commitment? Can you also pray for the new group leaders (courage, confidence, and wisdom in leading)?

**Potential Small Group Leaders:** Our next small group new leader training begins this Tuesday night and goes for 8 weeks. Can you pray that God would send the right people and that they'd be blessed by the training?

**Small Group Staff:** Wisdom in plugging in the right people to the right small groups. Can you also pray for the upcoming trainings we'll be delivering over the next couple of months (preparation, materials, and that the room/sound/set-up details would come together)?

## MEMORY VERSE

*Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation. 1 Peter 2:2*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – JOSHUA'S LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES

The Book of Joshua is the true story of how God used ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary purposes throughout time. Joshua's life was a good combination of wise leadership and God's blessing. Joshua obviously enjoyed God's favor, but he also allowed God to work on his character. God did not choose to work through Joshua “just as he was.” Rather, ***God chose to work in Joshua as He worked through Joshua.***

Think about it, God took an uneducated, inexperienced slave from Egypt, and walked with him through the years. As a result, Joshua emerged as an extremely effective spiritual leader. Today, maybe more

than anytime in history the Body of Christ needs those who will step up to spiritual leadership. Specifically, anyone who calls the Rock Church their home would greatly benefit from studying the work that God did in Joshua.

Our study will primarily look at these leadership principles:

- ⇒ Joshua grew through transitions
- ⇒ Joshua built on the past
- ⇒ Joshua took time to worship
- ⇒ Joshua had passion
- ⇒ Joshua blessed his followers

### ***Getting Started***

Life is in a constant state of flux; regardless of the shifting circumstances around him, Joshua remained constant, keeping his eyes on God and learning from Him and his circumstances.

1. Can you share with the group...has life ever thrown you a curve? How did you handle this change? How do you normally respond to change? What were the long term effects?
  
2. How could God be using these changes in your life to develop you for the next assignment He has for you?

### ***Digging Deeper***

3. Can you recall some of the great transitions that Joshua faced during his forty years of wandering in the desert? Look at some of these passages and discuss how these changes prepared him for leadership.
  - a. Numbers 14:3-7
  
  - b. Numbers 14:11-16
  
  - c. Numbers 20: 11-12
  
  - d. Numbers 25:1-9
  
  - e. Numbers 31: 1-10
  
  - f. Deuteronomy 5:1-21

- g. In what ways did Joshua build on his past experiences when it came time for Him to lead?

No one could ever accuse Joshua of having an easy life! After years of slavery, he spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness because of sins he didn't commit, all the while serving as an apprentice. As a military general, Joshua was a busy man. He could have made excuses for not studying God's Word or spending times in worship. Yet he understood that his time with God was the most important meeting of the day.

4. Read Joshua 3:5 and 8:30-35. How did personal times of worship seem to affect Joshua?
  
5. Can you share with the group about a recent time when God met you personally? What was that like? How did you know that you really met with God?
  
6. Throughout Joshua's leadership career we catch glimpses of his passion. Joshua was passionate in failure as well as in success. He was never complacent either. Do you think passion is an important character trait in a leader? Why or why not? Can you think of any examples of how Joshua expressed his passion? For examples look at:
  - a. Joshua 5:13
  
  - b. Numbers 14:6-7
  
  - c. Joshua 7:10-26
  
  - d. Joshua 24:15

*Joshua led people to accomplish God-sized goals, yet he didn't use people. Rather, he blessed them. Maybe he learned this important lesson from his mentor, Moses (see: Numbers 6:24-26). A good leader will encourage someone to become a better worker; a great leader will bless someone to become a better person.*

7. Do you think that encouragement is an important leadership quality? Can you share about a time when you have received and gave encouragement as a leader? What was the result? What are some of the barriers to becoming a person of encouragement?

### ***Bringing it Home***

8. Before you leave, spend a little time practicing the art of encouragement. Go around the room and take turns telling one another how have they have blessed your life. You can make up your own or finish one of the following sentences:

You blessed me recently when you told the story about...

What inspires me most about your character is...

The aspect of your personality I would most like to acquire in my own life is...

You have a way with people that I admire very much, which is...

Something about your faith in God that I really appreciate is...

9. Break up into prayer partners or triads (preferably men with men, women with women) and discuss which leadership trait (transitions, allowing God to use your past, developing a personal worship time, becoming a person of encouragement or developing a godly zeal for the Lord) which you would most like to acquire in your life.