

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## Extreme Home Takeover, Part 9

Questions written by Pastor Mark Collins

May 20, 2007



## 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:** Can you continue praying for each other's small groups? What are the needs in your groups...they are probably similar to all the Rock Small Groups.

**Potential Small Group Leaders:** He had 55 people show up for the Tuesday night Foundations in Leadership Class...so exciting! Can you pray that they'd stick with it for the next 7 weeks? Our goal is to equip them to start their own groups in September. Also we have our final training this Saturday for our Phase One Leaders. We hope they'll be blessed with small group tips, tools, and encouragement as they continue on with their new groups.

**Small Group Staff:** Can you continue praying 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

*Now therefore, fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and truth; and put away gods which your fathers served beyond the River in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Joshua 24:14*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – IT'S YOUR SERVE

As we come to an end to our study in the book of Joshua, it seems obvious even to the casual reader, that throughout his life, Joshua used his influence to promote God's vision, not his own. During his time of leadership, Joshua's vision was not only driven to win battles or the conquering of Israel's enemies, but to lead God's people in a long-term dynamic relationship with Him. Even though he was a layman, not a priest or a prophet, he took upon himself the responsibility of the spiritual well-being of the people placed under his care. His actions spoke volumes about his priorities. Simply put, Joshua was more than a great general, he was an excellent spiritual leader.

When it comes to the development of spiritual leaders, the most important element is the activity of God in a person's life. You cannot mimic that and it is not something you can achieve through practice or study. It only comes through submission. As people yield their lives entirely to God, God exercises His lordship over them and develops them into leaders that He wants them to be. God works in people's lives for *His* glory, not theirs. Although it is true that there are many non-practicing Christians who exhibit good leadership traits, yet Christians, who allow God to mold their lives, can experience a dimension of leadership not possible in the secular realm. Their lives, like Joshua's, can be used to dramatically impact the kingdom of God.

### ***Getting Started***

1. Joshua 24:1-20 describes the final time under his leadership when the mighty general summoned Israel to remember their spiritual heritage. Can you share about any important people in their past who affected their spiritual journey?
2. God used many miracles and special circumstances to mold His people. What is the chronology of God's history in your life? What important events, tragedies, milestones, disappointments, and successes has God used to form your spiritual heritage?

### ***Digging Deeper***

3. Read Joshua 24:1-7. Joshua begins by documenting Israel's deliverance from bondage. What are some of the bondages that Jesus has delivered you from? If God hadn't sought you out how do you think your life would be different today?
4. Look at Exodus 15:22-27; 16:4-6; 12-15. How has the Lord sustained you in hard times? What lessons have you learned? Have you ever faced a difficult time without the Lord? What was that like?
5. Read Joshua 24:7-12. How has God protected you from your enemies? How does Ephesians 6:12 help us to understand the cosmic battle that we are in?
6. Read Joshua 24:14-21. Here, in Joshua's farewell address the general moves from Israel's past to their present. He tells them to "put away the gods" that their forefathers served in the past. Despite God's goodness to us in the past, why do you think that it's easy to "serve other gods" in the present?

7. Joshua 24:19 describes the consequences of “serving other gods” in the present. Do you think this warning still applies today? Can you give some examples in your own life? What does it mean to fear the Lord in verse 14?

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

8. Read 24:21-28. In this part of the passage, the people of Israel made a covenant with God and Joshua. Did they keep their promise? What led to their downfall? Have you ever made a promise to God that you didn't keep? What was the result?
  
9. This passage (Joshua 24) reveals God's incredible faithfulness towards us, and our tendency to wander and serve “other gods.” Ask your group members if they would be willing to share some areas in their lives that are currently competing with God for supremacy. Then, breakup in prayer partners and lift one another up.