

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“Wise Guy”  
(1 Samuel 18)

July 13, 2008

Questions written by Brandon Fries



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Small Group leaders are you encouraging your group members to join the Rock Army? Your group can catch the vision of becoming a part of a movement that encourages people to become World-Class Christians. To join, check out the ARMY requirements at [www.therocksandiego.org/army/](http://www.therocksandiego.org/army/)

We want to encourage you and your group to take time to get out and serve in the community. This is a great opportunity for you to make a difference and connect with your small group. Give us a call if you need some ideas.

We also want to remind you to continue to submit your online reports. This is a great tool so you can communicate with us so we can answer any questions you have and be in prayer for you and your group. Keep up the good work.

## 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. May God work through your prayers mightily!*

**Reaching the Lost:** Pray that all the small groups continue to develop relationships with those who are far from God, and invite them to their small groups.

**Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups:** Pray that all of our Small Groups take time to follow up on all the new people trying to get into small groups.

**Potential Small Group Leaders:** Pray that our current leaders continue to give their ministry away and develop future leaders to reach their full potential in Jesus.

**The Rock Body:** Pray that the Rock Army grows deeper and deeper in accountability to one another.

## MEMORY VERSE

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline (Proverbs 1:7)*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – “WISE GUY”

When I was in high school, I was not really “popular.” I didn’t have many friends, and nobody really knew who I was, until I started playing volleyball. Most schools celebrate football, basketball or baseball, but my school was known for volleyball. Our team was the best in the valley. We had 10 consecutive district championships, 6 regional championships and were always one of the top teams in the state of California and my senior year wasn’t any different. We went undefeated during the regular season, flew through the regional tournament until the semi finals. We fought hard during the semi final game and barely won, but we did win and we went to the Valley Championship. Unfortunately, we weren’t prepared for the Finals. We were so focused on the win from the previous game; we didn’t mentally show up for the last game and we were blown out of the water.

Remember the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel (1 King 18). He goes head to head against 450 prophets of Baal to find out who serves the real God. The prophets of Baal run in circles, yelling, cutting themselves and praying for Baal to come down and ignite their wood. Meanwhile, Elijah is taunting them saying, “Shout louder”, “perhaps he is in deep thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be wakened.” After hours pass, Elijah has his wood drenched with 12 large jars of water, he prays to God and BAM... God shows up, lights his fire and the prophets of Baal are defeated. What a great victory! But read on to 1 King 19:1-7. After watching God show up and defeat 450 priest of Baal, Elijah flees from Jezebel. God had shown himself true to everyone, yet Elijah still ran and hid under a broom tree and asked the same God that just hurled fire on his waterlogged wood, to come and kill him.

### *Getting Started*

When was a time that you experienced a great victory, but were quickly defeated afterwards? How could you have been better prepared to remember God’s victory?

### *Digging Deeper:*

1. Read 1 Sam 18:1-5. David had a “good name” because of what he did, what do people say about you at work, in your extended family, at church, friends? How can you begin to change that with the knowledge and experience you have this far (wisdom)?
2. What relationship do you currently have where your name is mud? What keeps you from working out the relationship? What do you need to do to begin to resolve the conflict?
3. Read 1 Sam. 18:6-11. David was not only a warrior and leader, but a musician. His unique gifting as a musician complemented his warrior heart, he did write a major portion of the Psalms. What is your S.H.A.P.E.
  - a. **Spiritual Gifts**- What are your Spiritual Gifts?
  - b. **Heart**- What are some things you’re good at and love doing? What do people compliment you on?
  - c. **Abilities**- What are your strongest abilities (accounting, speaking, writing, counseling, photography)? What skills are you working on?
  - d. **Personality**- This is how I see myself: (pick one of the two words for each comment)
    - Around others I am more: RESERVED or OUTGOING
    - My decisions are based more on: FACTS/THINKING or FEELINGS

- In my relationships I tend to be more: DEPENDENT ON OTHERS or INDEPENDENT
  - My use of time is more: DETERMINED or SPONTANEOUS
- e. **Experience-** What is a painful experience that you've had? What was a past experience that you've learned from?
4. Read 1 Sam 18:12-16. What was the secret to David's success (v.14)? What other scripture hold the promise that God is with you? How can you deepen your level of trust and hope in Christ?

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

In our study of 1 Samuel, David just had a huge victory, he killed his giant. He showed up and accomplished what nobody else in the entire army of Israel was willing to do... even the King. He could have easily gone home, hung the head of Philistine on his mantel as a trophy, been a "one hit wonder" and lived the rest of his life with this great triumph. People still would talk about him and he would be a hero for the rest of his life, but he doesn't call it quits and revel in the one time victory, he continued to push forward because he knew God wasn't done with him. He persisted to keep his name good, refined his skills and most importantly kept favor with God.

1. When we realize how big our God really is, how does that realization affect us in the following areas:
- Our view of ourselves?
  - Our belief that we are what we do?
  - Our hope for the future?
  - Our courage in stepping out in faith to follow God?