

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“AN ANGELIC LEADER”

1 Samuel 29

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This fall we are kicking off a huge church wide campaign! The campaign is going to launch in late September and will lead right up to the elections in November and will be a “full court press” for all Rock Church attendees. We will be having a marriage seminar, parenting workshops, relationship classes and guest speakers on Sunday along with Miles bringing the Word. The small groups department will have 3 different curriculums that will align with everything else the church is doing. We know that God desires us to be pursuing purity and holiness and our goal is that this campaign will continue the process with everyone that chooses to participate. We want to ask you to join us during this six week campaign by going through one of the 3 curriculums shown below. We are expecting great things to happen as we come together as a church united under one purpose.

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/

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!

iProtect Marriage Campaign: Pray for our upcoming fall season. Pray that God provides the host homes for the groups we are going to start for the six week campaign and also for God to stretch us as a church as we pursue Him together.

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

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – “AN ANGELIC LEADER”

We've taken a couple of weeks off from looking at David's life and what has been going on. Let's do a quick review of the 1st 28 chapters of 1st Samuel.

- Hannah prayed to God and asked Him for a child. She committed to giving the child to Him if He would let her give birth. God answered and had Samuel. Once He answered, she gave Samuel to Eli the priest. (1 Sam 1-2).
- God calls Samuel to be his prophet. (1 Samuel 3).
- Israel asks for a king and Saul became their king. He started off strong, but then took power into his own hands and lost favor from the Lord (1 Samuel 8-15).
- God tells Samuel to go and look for the next king. He finds David and anoints him. (1 Samuel 16)
- David faces his giant and takes down Goliath. (1 Samuel 17).
- Saul's jealousy of David begins. He starts hunting David down and David is constantly on the move. He's hiding in caves and avoiding contact with Saul. He even has a chance to kill the king, but he doesn't take action. (1 Samuel 18-26)
- David finally finds refuge in the camp of the Philistines, the enemies of Saul. (1 Samuel 27-28).

As we can see, David's journey to becoming king was tough. God could have killed Saul on the spot. Then Samuel could have went out, found David. Once David was anointed, Samuel could have put him on a white horse and David galloped off to the palace, where the throngs of people cheered the new king into power. That would have been the easy way to do it... but God had different plans. Rick Warren says that "God cares more about our character than our comfort". The years that David spent running for his life, hiding in caves and struggling to survive shaped his character and increased his dependence on God. As you go through struggles, remember that God is going to use the tough time to strengthen your character and increase your dependence on Him.

Getting Started

Describe a time in your life that was extremely difficult, but as you look back on it you see how God used that situation to help you in your walk with Him?

Digging Deeper:

1. David flees Saul by escaping into the land of the Philistines (1 Sam 27:1). Do you think that it was God who led him to the Philistines or was it his own fear? Where do you run to when avoiding conflict?
2. Read 1 Sam 29:1-5. The Philistines were on their way to fight the Israelites. Do you think David would have fought against them or was he bluffing? Describe a recent situation where you felt

like you were in between a rock and a hard place. How should your walk with Christ effect the decision you make while in that difficult place?

3. Read 1 Sam 29:6-8. Why do you think David had found favor with Achish (read 1 Sam 27)? How can you relate to their relationship?
4. Read 1 Sam 29:9-11. Achish shows favor on David by allowing him to leave in peace. How has God recently shown you “favor”? When has someone unexpectedly allowed you to “sneak out at dawn”? Who can you give grace to this week?

Bringing it Home

We end the reading by seeing David kicked out once again. The only place he felt shelter was under the enemy of the Israelites, and now he’s alone... but he’s right where God wants him to be. I believe that God wanted him to trust God with everything; his food, his shelter and his life. As I think about it, that’s what God wants from us. Complete and total surrender to Him.

Spend time in silence and ask God to examine your life. What are you holding onto that He wants you to begin to trust Him? Confess the control you are keeping and ask Him to help you surrender it to Him.