

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

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1 Samuel 30

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Questions written by Brandon Fries



## 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 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, relationships 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 the 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/](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!*

**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

***“No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.”***

**Joshua 1:5**

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – “”

Imagine this: You are in the military and you are on your way back home after a short mission. You're tired and you've been hiking for days through the hills. Your mouth waters as you can almost smell the steak on the BBQ. You realize it's been too long since your last home cooked meal. You picture your loved ones waiting outside the house awaiting your homecoming. You can't wait to wrap your arms around your kids and feel the kiss of your spouse. The familiar smell of the house fills your nose as a smile creeps onto your face. "I'm almost there," you say to yourself, "just around the corner and I'll be there.

As you round the corner to your town, something is different, something isn't right. You can't believe your eyes. Your home town has been burnt to the ground. Smoke still fills the air and the ashes are still warm to the touch. The streets that were once filled with little kids running around and playing now are littered with blacked homes and debris. There is an eerie silence as you and your companions realize that everyone is gone; old and young alike.

This is the scene that David and his men found upon coming home. Can you imagine the pain and hopelessness that they must have felt? Can you feel the pit in the bottom of your stomach? You know you need to do something, but you are at a loss of words? The tears from emptiness and anger fill your eyes. You search for any sign of life, but none is found.

### ***Getting Started***

When was a time that something was taken from you? How did you feel and how did you respond?

### ***Digging Deeper:***

1. Read 1 Sam 30:1-6. Imagine being David; not only was his family taken from him, but his army was blaming him and ready to kill him. When was a time that you felt everything was going wrong and everyone was against you? How much control did you have over the situation? What feelings did that evoke inside?
2. Read 1 Sam 30:7-8. In utter despair, David calls for the ephod (as he did in 1 Sam 23:9 in a similar predicament) and turns to God. In the above situation, how did you respond? Where do you need God's help right now?
3. Read 1 Sam 30:9-20. How do you think God showed up in David's situation? When looking back, how has God unexpectedly shown up in your situation? Where are you currently experiencing God in your life?
4. Read 1 Sam 30:21-28. David just had a great victory with God's help! How does David respond? What characteristics does David show that confirm that he is the next king? How

important was this period of pain and struggle for David's growth? When was a desert time in your life that stretched you? Looking at your present situation, where are you struggling and what do you think God is trying to teach you through it?

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

Rick Warren, Senior Pastor of Saddleback church and author of *Purpose Driven Life*, says that "God cares more about our character than our comfort". When we are going through rough times and struggling through life, God is working on a deeper side of us... our character. David was an outcast and living in a foreign land. Since God was in the tabernacle in Jerusalem, David felt distant from God. All he had from the tabernacle was the ephod. The ephod was David's connection with God. It grounded him and kept his foot on solid ground. Begin to find "ephods" in your life to remind you that God is still there when you feel that He is far from you. And finally always know that God is right there with you; even when you don't "feel" Him.