

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“Eternal Treasure” – Potential Series Part 3

Questions written by Danah Davis

January 25, 2009



ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- ❖ 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, the ARMY visit www.therocksandiego.org/army/
- ❖ Don't forget your reports – Please log on to small group manager once a week and fill out your weekly reports.
- ❖ New curriculum? Please check your directory listing and make sure we are up to date on what you are studying in your small group. Email any changes to Tawny at tawny.paavola@therocksandiego.org.

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.

Small Group Staff: Pray that God gives us the favor and wisdom to serve the Small Group ministry. Ask Him to order our steps in every decision we make.

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

MEMORY VERSE

“Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase.”

(Proverbs 3:9)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – STEWARDSHIP THAT MAXIMIZES

Have you ever had an experience where you had to totally trust God with your treasure, even when it didn't make sense? Perhaps, you or someone you know has had to trust God financially when everything

in our culture and flesh tells us to do the opposite. I remember shortly after I was saved I was tested to trust God with my resources. I was working in Los Angeles and commuting to the Rock every weekend for service. Throughout my work week I felt this desire on my heart to live closer to the Rock so that I could take some of the Rock U classes offered during the week and join more ministries. I prayed about it and one day God released me from the strongholds that kept me in Los Angeles. With a few bucks in my checking account, I set out to relocate to San Diego without knowing how long it would take me to find work. I needed every penny that I had and it still wasn't enough to last long. None the less, for 8 months I tithed faithfully on what little money I had, even when more income wasn't coming in. I figured if I can afford a value meal somewhere, I can afford to offer something to God no matter how hard it gets. And let me tell you it never got that hard! It should have, but it didn't. Random checks would come in unexpectedly from family members, or bills over paid would send refund checks. God just took care of me and made sure I was completely provided for, while still allowing me to give Him my first fruits.

Billy Graham comments in his book, *the Christian Workers Handbook*: “We have found in our home, as have thousands of others, that when we tithe, God’s blessing upon the nine-tenths helps it to go further than ten-tenths without His blessing. How you handle your money is an optional matter. God doesn’t force you to distribute it one way or another. There are certain biblical principles, however, in a philosophy of Christian stewardship. For one thing, God owns everything. We are custodians, so to speak, of His property. Whatever we give is, by definition, His anyway. Secondly, one’s giving ought to be prompted by love – and by a personal commitment to Christ. Thirdly, while Christian stewardship is not based on reward, it certainly recognizes that there’s no better investment in terms of return. Jesus talked in Mark 4 about yields which were thirty-, sixty-, and a hundredfold...if tithing was appropriate under law, it is even more so in this age of freedom and grace...Try giving the tithe and more – with joy and even abandon – and you’ll see, you’ll see!”

Getting Started

If you found an abandoned car with \$50,000 in the back seat, what would you do?

What do you treasure?

What is stewardship?

Digging Deeper:

God’s plan is for Christians to support the advancement of the Gospel through tithes and offerings: “On first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper.” (1 Corinthians 16:2) The New Testament teaches that Christians should give individually, regularly, methodically, and proportionately to support the local church, the needy, evangelism, and missions.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. What does God want us to consider in our giving?
2. Read Philippians 4:19. How does God respond when we respond to the needs of His work?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:12-15. Give examples of things in your life that will be tested by fire. What is their external significance?
4. Read Matthew 6:24. What things are we challenged to value in our culture? How does that affect you spiritually? Explain.

5. In uncertain financial times, what does it mean for the righteous person to live by faith?
6. To whom should the Christian give? (Local church? Missions?) Explain. [See, Malachi 3:10]
7. How can you be a good steward of all of the things you treasure?

Bringing it Home

As a group, make your own list of things you *treasure* and examine how you can better steward those gifts to honor God. Before you leave, consider using your list to make a plan of action. Ask God to help you see opportunity and potential in new areas. Pray for wisdom and strength to be faithful in the areas He places on your heart. Perhaps ask someone in your group to help keep you accountable to your plan.