

# COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

## IN THE MOVIES

**Journey Part 1: Lessons from Daniel**  
Pastor Stephen Goble – August 12, 2012



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. For all Rock Church events, please visit <http://www.sdrock.com/events/>.
2. Let your friends know that they can always live stream the Rock Church Sunday worship experience by visiting <http://www.sdrock.com/live/>.
3. If you know somebody that is interested in stepping up to lead a Community Group please have them go to <http://www.sdrock.com/communitygroups/lead/> to fill out an application to get started today! Our next New Leader Orientation is August 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 in room 232, please contact [john.darrow@sdrock.com](mailto:john.darrow@sdrock.com) for more information.

## MEMORY VERSE

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?” (Romans 8:35 ESV)

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

(Use one or more of the following opening discussion starters)

1. How important are life circumstances to your faith? When things don't go your way do you find your faith diminishing too? Explain.
2. Is it possible to be a follower of Christ and yet at the same time a slave to your sin, struggles, or circumstances? Explain.



## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS – IN THE MOVIES, JOURNEY PART ONE

### Sermon Review and Introduction

The concept of circumstances and suffering are some sticky topics. On one hand we recognize that circumstances can be tough, strenuous, grievous, and even appear as actual suffering. But they can also be bliss. Things can work according to plan. We tend to think that the good times equal God's blessings, and the bad times equal, well, something other than God's blessings. And of course there is our right plain ol' suffering. The early church experienced this almost relentlessly in the first three centuries, and of course it really never stopped, as we examine the persecuted in different parts of the world today.

As we get into the study, we challenge you to examine your circumstances and sufferings as to whether it lines up with your faith and identity in Christ. Potential learning outcomes:

- Identify my identity. Is it possible to be a "slave" to circumstances and Jesus at the same time?
- Discern between positive and negative effects of suffering. Are all "good" things that occur in our life from God and all "bad" things from the enemy?
- Is my focus on Christ or my circumstances?

#### 1. Review the sermon if necessary:

1. In our journey, we need to identify what we are a **slave** to.  
*Daniel 1:1-7*
2. We can't compare our journey to **other** people's journey.  
*Daniel 1:9-21*
3. In spite of our **circumstances**, God can accomplish His will.  
*Daniel 6:4-11*
4. Our view of the ending is God's view of the **beginning**.  
*Daniel 6:16-17, Romans 8:35*

#### 2. Read 1 Peter 4:12-17 together as a group. Identify and list some key points Peter makes regarding suffering in this passage.

##### Potential Responses:

- Suffering should not be a surprise. The Christians in Rome were literally being set on fire for their faith. Peter tells them this is normal. Are our sufferings the same?
- Rejoice in suffering, why? Because Christ suffered too, and in this we rejoice!
- Blessing comes from insults for proclaiming the name of Christ.
- Blessing will not come from suffering as a criminal. Civil disobedience can't allow us to pull the "martyr" card.
- Judgment begins in the church. The Christian judgment does not mean the same for those not in Christ. The non-believer will have terrible consequences in judgment.

#### 3. When and how is suffering necessary and encouraged for the believer? When could suffering prohibit the rejoicing in Christ (see v. 15)?



4. When can “good” things actually become hindrances in our growth in Christ? Be specific with personal examples and experiences if possible.
5. Read Romans 6:1-8 together as a group. Identify and list some key points Paul makes regarding slavery of sin or to Christ in this passage.

Potential Responses:

- Should we sin so grace can be magnified? Paul states that the thought of that should flee us immediately.
  - We were baptized (spiritually) with Christ and raised with him. His death was our death (of our old selves).
  - Since we were united in death, we are also united in life and Jesus’ resurrection. This is so that we will not be enslaved to sin.
  - We are set free from sin, and now live completely in Christ.
6. According to Romans 6 can we equally be a slave to sin and a slave to Christ?
  7. If we are not slaves to sin, and are slaves to Christ, why do we struggle in certain areas of sin? If we can be slaves to both, how does this potentially conflict with victory in Christ?
  8. Is it possible to have complete victory over life “circumstances,” specifically the things that we do which are contrary to God’s character? Please explain your answer.

Passages to Consider:

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- 2 Kings 22:11-13
- Luke 24:44
- Colossians 3:16
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Revelation 1:3

