

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

"It Matters"
April 23, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Interested in leading your own small group?** Ask your Small Group Leader about being an Apprentice. Or contact Carolyn York at 619.226.7625 x247 or carolyn@therocksandiego.org.
- **Small Group Essentials Training, Part II** – Saturday, May 20, 8-11:30 AM, includes breakfast. Topics to be discussed are Leading Difficult People, Effective Conflict and Confrontation, Leadership 101 – How Leadership Works, and Raising Up the Next Generation of Leaders. RSVP by May 12 to andrew@therocksandiego.org or 619.226.7625 x242.
- **For all other Rock Announcements** please go to <http://www.therocksandiego.org/announcements/> or see the Rock Event Calendar at <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

MEMORY VERSE

- *You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD.* Leviticus 26:2

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – IT MATTERS

Getting Started

Few people just jump into the process of buying a home. The risks are too great to jump first and look later. Most people *posture* themselves so that they are in the best position to make such a significant purchase. They might check their credit, get pre-approved for a loan, reduce debt, and make a budget that would support a mortgage. These actions are taken deliberately and with the intent of creating the best possible scenario for buying a home.

Answers.com defines posture as *a frame of mind affecting one's thoughts or behavior; an overall attitude*. This week in small group we want to give you the opportunity to posture your life for another big decision. It's a decision we all have to make. It's the decision of whether or not we will receive God's blessing.

1. If there is a certain life that results from being blessed, what do you think the blessed life looks like?
2. If the blessed life is a result of making some right decisions (posturing yourself), what do you think some of those decision are (or could be)?

Digging Deeper

1. Think back to the weekend sermon. How would you explain to someone why obedience brings God's blessing and why disobedience loses God's blessing? Another way to ask that question is, how does decision making affect the quality of our lives?

2. It's easy to entertain the idea that God wants our obedience because He wants to control us or because He is out to make our lives miserable. What does the Bible say about God's motive for asking us to obey Him? (Don't feel like you need to cover all of these during your discussion time.)
 - ◆ Deuteronomy 5:32-33
 - ◆ Deuteronomy 6:3
 - ◆ Deuteronomy 4:5-8 (How does your blessed life reflect God?)
 - ◆ Isaiah 3:10-11
 - ◆ Proverbs 1:28-33
 - ◆ Matthew 25:31-46 (Here's a long one)

3. We all have experienced a time where we not only disobeyed God, but we disobeyed God because we *wanted* to—we sinned and we enjoyed it. We sinned because something inside of us wanted to do it our way. What does the Bible say about that desire and where it comes from?
 - ◆ Romans 7:5- Has the person Paul is referring to in this verse become a follower of Jesus yet? What internal source dominates this person's motivation for life and living?
 - ◆ Romans 7:7-8
 - ◆ Romans 7:14-23
 - ◆ Judges 17:6
 - ◆ Proverbs 21:2

Bringing it Home

The Bible says that our ability to obey comes from God; more specifically, it comes from the Holy Spirit within us (when we become followers of Jesus). What that means then, is that obedience is both a conscious decision and a result of the Holy Spirit working in us over time.

The Holy Spirit is doing an internal work in all of us (read John 14:15-17, 26; 16:7-13). He is shining a spotlight on “growth areas” in our lives. He is helping us pay attention to parts of our lives that aren't yet given over to His direction.

1. What are some of the things we can do to pay attention to the Holy Spirit's internal work in our lives? In other words, how can we begin to see the parts of our lives He is shining His spotlight on?
2. What prevents us from making deliberate decisions to obey God?
3. Here's a risky extra credit question. What are some of the parts of you that the Holy Spirit is asking you to change and yield to him?