

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“FROMTO Book of 1 Samuel”  
(1 Samuel 8-9)

**From Envy to Blessing**

Questions written by Mark Collins



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Small Group leaders are there any members in your who's ready to step out into leadership? Maybe there's someone who wants to take a greater role within your group? Or could there be people willing to learn and implement leadership principles in their everyday lives. If this is the case we have an amazing opportunity for them. Encourage your members to attend our Foundations in Leadership training Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> and June 28<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 2PM. Continental breakfast and lunch are provided. During these two Saturday seminars we'll be unpacking the principles of leadership, while interactively allowing you to try on some of the skills as we go. I promise that these seminars are not tired, clichéd and boring classroom lectures. You'll have fun, meet new people and maybe, just maybe you'll discover a greater calling and purpose for your life. All you have to do to register is email Danah Davis at [danah.davis@therocksandiego.org](mailto:danah.davis@therocksandiego.org) to sign up.

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/)

## 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.

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

## MEMORY VERSE

*Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. (1 Pet. 2:1)*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – FROM ENVY TO BLESSING

It's funny the things you remember from your childhood - often it's not the big events that stick in your memory, but the small, silly, little things. I remember breakfast time. Specifically, I remember the *Battle of the Toast*. You see, every morning mom would toast up and butter a big old stack of toast and put it on the breakfast table. She would put all that toast right in the middle of the table. I had a younger but it seemed a much hungrier brother, and the *Battle of the Toast* was a war to see who would get the most toast for breakfast. Now that I think about it, it was really kind of stupid; neither of us *needed* more than a couple slices of toast with jam or peanut butter, but this epic battle was not about what we *needed*, or even what we *wanted*. Instead we only thought about what "the other guy" was getting. And our desires were completely defined by what "the other guy" had. Thus, if my brother ate four pieces of toast, then I just *had* to have four pieces of toast. It didn't matter if I was already full or even if I was about to get sick. This was war, and I had to keep up.

One day my mom (before she put out the toast) sat us down and told us this little fable. She said, "Once upon a time, there was an eagle who was envious of another that could fly better than he could. One day the bird saw a hunter (obviously this story became popular before the formation of PETA) with a bow and arrow and said to him, 'I wish you would bring down that eagle up there.' The man said he would if he had some feathers for his arrows. So the jealous eagle pulled one out of his wing. The arrow was shot, but it didn't quite reach the rival bird because he was flying too high. The first eagle pulled out another feather, then another--until he had lost so many that he himself couldn't fly. The archer took advantage of the situation, turned around, and killed the helpless bird. Then my mom ended the story with: if you are envious of others, the one you will hurt the most by your actions will be yourself." After the story, she proceeded to set the toast in front of us just like always. I'd love to tell you being the older and wiser brother that I learned from my mother's story but the truth is that day the battle seemed to rage even more furiously!

Eventually mom put a stop to the *Battle of the Toast* by carefully counting out how many slices of bread she toasted, and limiting us each to two slices apiece. Seems kind of silly now, doesn't it? But this is the cost of envy - the cost of looking at the other person and comparing what *I* have to what *they* have. I stop thinking about what is good (or even what is *healthy*) and I just have to have what they have. It makes no difference if I need it, makes no difference if it is good for me. I need it. The children of Israel suffered from the same malady as my brother and I did. They got caught looking around and seeing what every other nation had rather than understanding that God wanted to do something unique with them. God had chosen a theocratic (God being king) form of government rather than a monarchy which all other nations toiled under. Even when the people were warned what would happen if they chose a king, they were blinded by their envy, and demanded something that was far less valuable than what they already possessed.

### *Getting Started*

When was the first time you can remember where you wanted something "just like" everybody else had? What areas of your life do you struggle with this still today?

### *Digging Deeper:*

## FROM ENVY TO BLESSING?

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-22

1. Read 1 Samuel 8:1-3. What were the sins of Samuel's sons? In Israel's past were the Judges appointed by their predecessors or chosen by God? (For help take a look at 1 Samuel 2:34, and the book of Judges).
2. Is your house being firmly established in the Lord? How so? What inheritance are you passing on to your descendents? What does that look like on a daily basis?
3. Read 8: 6-18. Even after repeated warnings the people clamored for a king. Why do you think the people wanted a king like all the other nations?
4. Do you think that God has ever given you what you wanted even though it wasn't necessarily the best thing for you? If so, can you describe that time? What do you think God was trying to do in your life?
5. What is the "king that sometimes rules you life (work, schedule, ambitions, entertainment, hobbies, a habit or addiction, worrying about what others think, other)?"
6. Read 1 Samuel 9:1-3; 21; 10:5-6. When God looked for a king for his people, what did he seem to look for?
7. When has God used some unusual circumstances to bring you to a place where he could bless you or make you a blessing?
8. How would you know if God was calling you to do something completely new? How are you like Saul being changed into a totally different person?

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

1 Samuel is a book of transitions. These stories found in the OT depict a people who want to be like everyone else, led by men rather than God. Take a few minutes and isolate some areas in your life that you believe are being affected by every else. Then write what you think it would look like to be led by God in these areas.

<b>FROM</b> being led by man	<b>TO</b> being led by God