

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“Dress for Success”

(1 Samuel 24)

July 20, 2008

Questions written by Brandon Fries



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!*

**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

*“Those that live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.” **Romans 8:5***

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – “DRESS FOR SUCCESS”

Any sports' fan loves rivalries. We love to boo the pitcher, watch the main player get “fouled out” and cheer when the opposing team misses the winning field goal in the last 10 seconds of the game. The greatest rivalries are those that go back decades. The reason I think we like rivalries is because we love to get revenge. I was born and raised in Fresno, CA. In Fresno, we live and breathe for the Fresno State Bulldogs. One year we were invited to a bowl game and we were playing against the USC Trojans. This was a huge game for us... but the Trojans didn't think so. Leading up to the game they made little remarks about playing such a “small town” team and basically said that we shouldn't even show up for the game. That sparked a fire in the players and the team... we wanted revenge. The Bulldogs played at top level, and because of the fire inside, we won. We beat the USC Trojans and brought home the trophy.

Many of the great action movies and TV shows are based on the heroin vindicating themselves from the antagonist. When we are wronged we look for retribution. But what does God want? Is revenge something that we can biblically justify? As I read through the bible, I see that God has a way of turning the paradigm upside down. When I want to judge others he says to look in the mirror (Matthew 1:1-5). When I want to fight he says pray first (remember Jericho; Josh 5:13-6:27). When I want to hate my enemy, He says love them. And that is what we see David doing in 1 Sam 24. God's desire is that we give everything up to Him and trust that He will do what is right. Our desires need to take a back seat to what the Spirit is leading us to do.

### *Getting Started*

When your parents, professors or bosses turn their back, what do you do? When have you used that occasion to slack off? When have you used that opportunity to show yourself faithful?

### *Digging Deeper:*

1. Read 1 Sam 24:1-4. Describe a time that you felt that someone targeted you? What caused them to focus on you? To what extent did they go to “hunt you down”? How did you respond?
2. What is your attitude towards authority figures? Who do you see as “God's anointed” in your life (parents, spouse, pastors, employer, police, and corrupt politicians)? Do people of authority get automatic respect or do they have to earn it? Why?
3. Read 1 Sam 24:5-7. How would you have responded if you were David? What do you think caused David to be “conscience-stricken”?
4. When have you felt internal turmoil because you knew that God wasn't pleased with a choice you made? Did you do anything to resolve the internal conflict or not? If so, what did you do?
5. Read 1 Sam 24:8-14. Why did David lay prostrate before Saul? Why does David liken himself to a “flea” and “dead dog”?
6. Is there someone in your life that you have a difficult time submitting to? What action does God want you to take to humble yourself and love that person starting tomorrow morning? How can you be content, like David was, to simply let God affect His will, in His way, in His time?
7. Read 1 Sam 24:16-22. What was Saul's response?

## ***Bringing it Home***

It's easy for us to read this because the results were positive. Saul realized his mistake, turned around and went home. We see that justice was done and that there was a resolution. But what if the results didn't turn out this way? What if Saul kept stalking David? There are times when it appears that the wicked go on without consequences to their actions, those who seek harm aren't brought to justice and those who oppose God aren't humbled. If we truly trust that God is in charge, then we can't impose our expectations of how God will rectify the situation. We need to trust **Him** and know that **He** knows what **He** is doing.

Read and meditate on Psalm 35 as a group. This Psalm is written by David while Saul was chasing him. While reading this, imagine David in the cave praying this to God. Then remember his response to Saul (1 Sam 24:8-15).