

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## Treasure Hunt

Questions written by Mark Collins

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Small Group Announcement** – ATTENTION—THERE HAS BEEN A DATE CHANGE!!!! On February 17<sup>th</sup> the Rock Small Group ministry will be hosting a new kind of Small Group sign-up. We are asking every Rock Small Group to be represented that day to promote your group in a “Ministry Fair” type atmosphere. We ask that your small group be a part of helping the Rock Body find greater Biblical Community. To sign up all you have to do is go to [www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/3646/](http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/3646/). For more information call Mark @ 619-764-5146 or contact him at [mark.collins@therocksandiego.org](mailto:mark.collins@therocksandiego.org) for more details.

**Global Announcement** - If someone in your group needs financial guidance encourage them to sign up now for Rock U's Adopting God's Principles for Handling Money class.\* Class starts February 1<sup>st</sup>. This course takes an in-depth look at God's purpose, plan, and principles for handling money and possessions. You'll learn both the scriptural foundations and practical steps toward becoming financially free. You'll learn how to live a life of contentment, including ideas on applying these principles to the marriage and family. (For married couples or those considering marriage – this course is a must!) Join us as we get financially fit in 2008! Register at [www.therockuniversity.org](http://www.therockuniversity.org) or at the **Rock U tent on Sundays**. For more info, contact Danielle Demko at [danielle.demko@therocksandiego.org](mailto:danielle.demko@therocksandiego.org) or call 619.764.5123. **For all other Rock events**, please go <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

## 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. And if you'd like to be added to our Pastor's Prayer Team, just let us know. Mark Collins, the Small Group Pastor, would love your prayers! We send out a monthly email of his personal and ministry prayer requests. Just contact Andy Rodgers at [andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org](mailto:andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org). May God work through your prayers mightily!*

**Reaching the Lost:** Pray that all of our groups participate in our up coming Small Group sign up. Also, in March, the Small group ministry will be training and deploying a new type of small groups called: Seeker Small Groups. More info will be coming, but it will be an adventure!

**Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups:** Pray that all of our Small Group leaders and group members ask God if He is calling them to a fast, and the courage to be obedient during this unique spiritual time.

**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 rebuild the Small Group team. Ask Him to order our steps in every decision we make.

**The Rock Body:** Pray that the Rock Army grows deeper and deeper in the stewardship of their lives in Christ.

## MEMORY VERSE

*Luke 12:34 For where you treasure is there will your heart be also.*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – TREASURE HUNT

Today, more than ever our culture is fascinated with finding hidden treasure. Over the holidays I had the pleasure of seeing the new *National Treasure* flick, *The Book of Secrets* and I wasn't disappointed. It was full of adventure, history, intrigue, and of course involved a pretty significant treasure. Since seeing the movie I've thought about my own life and realized that everyone on the planet is on a treasure hunt of sorts. We all seek out treasure in our lives. Most of us want to be comfortable enough so that we are free from constant worry. We want to have the peace and security that there'll be enough for tomorrow, and if the truth be told, more than enough would be even better.

Jesus in His teaching constantly drew upon the connection between money and spirituality. In fact 15 percent of everything Christ said relates to this topic. What's even more amazing is that Jesus actually spoke more about money than on the subjects of heaven and hell combined. Why did Jesus put such an emphasis on money and possessions? Because there's a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we think about and handle what God has given us. We may try to divorce our faith from our finances but God sees them as inseparable.

### *Getting Started*

1. Imagine that you inherited ten million dollars, how would that affect your life? How would it change you?
  - a. With all this new-found wealth do you think you would become more generous? Why or why not?
2. What would it take for you to have joy in life? Would it be worth parting with money and things to obtain it?

### *Digging Deeper*

Read Luke 12:13-21. In the story Jesus spoke of a rich man who hordes all of his wealth to himself. He tears down his smaller barns to build bigger ones, storing up for himself so he could retire early and take life easy. Ironically, this man didn't live long enough to realize his dreams—for he was rich toward himself—but he robbed from God.

3. How do the following passages show the connection between our spiritual lives and how we handle money and possessions?
  - a. Malachi 3:8-10

- b. Matthew 2:11
  - c. Luke 3:8-14
  - d. Luke 19:8-10
  - e. Deuteronomy 26:10-11
  - f. 2 Chronicles 29:31-33
4. Read Matthew 6:19-21. In the light of these verses why do you think that Jesus called the rich man a fool?
- a. Read Proverbs 23:5. Why do you think the wisdom of the Bible urges us not to store up treasures on earth?
  - b. Think of the worst investment you've ever made in your life, what were the consequences in choosing to invest in such a loser?
5. Jesus tells us that we can't take it with us but we can send it on ahead. So how do we store our treasure in heaven? What would that look like (Take a look at: Luke 19:15; Matthew 19:21 and Psalms 16:11)?

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

Imagine that you were alive during the Civil War. You're living in the South but you're a Northerner. You plan to move back home as soon as the war is over. While you've been living in the South you've accumulated lots of Confederate currency. With every passing day it becomes more obvious that the North is going to win the war. What should you do with your money?

6. As a Christian you have insider information how all life will end (either with Jesus' return or when you die). In light of this insider info how should you invest in this current market (this life)?
- a. What are some stumbling blocks keeping you from a wise investment portfolio?
  - b. Share with the group one area in your life that you could quickly change to immediately affect your stewardship. How could the group help you with this commitment?

7. End this session with prayer using the AWCIPA model. Group leaders can choose to lead the whole group or have the group break up into prayer partners.

- A**     *Admire and thank God. (Psalm 8:9)*  
          *Thank God for everything that comes to mind.*
- W**     *Wait quietly before God. (Psalm 46:10)*  
          *Sit quietly and listen to God speak to you and write it down.*
- C**     *Confess your sin. (1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:12)*  
          *Confess your sins to God.*
- I**     *Intercede for others. (1 Chronicles 4:9)*  
          *Pray for other people.*
- P**     *Petition for yourself. (Psalm 51:10-12, John 14:12-14)*  
          *Ask for a pure heart.*
- A**     *Admire and thank God. (Psalm 8:9)*  
          *Thank God for everything you can think of.*