



FALL 2008

SMALL GROUP STUDY PACKET

**Lesson One — ROOTS: Vision**  
The Rock Church: week of September 22, 2008

**Icebreaker:** What obstacles and difficulties did you face during the last two weeks?

*Read Genesis 12:3 & 17:1-8 & 26:18-19, Deut 7:7-9 & 4:37-39 & 8:1-3, Psalm 98:1-3 & 96:1-8a*

1. God's **big plan** for Israel was to bring them into the Promised Land and establish a God-honoring community that would be a light to the entire world.
  - *Why do you think God placed so many challenges and obstacles in Israel's path?*
  - *Why didn't God fulfill His **big plan** by easily transporting them directly from Egypt to the Promised Land?*
  
2. God is just as concerned about the process (*means*) as He is about the result (*ends*). The exodus was more than just a journey to the Promised Land; it was a **journey of the heart**. ROOTS will help us grow deeper in at least three areas:
  - 1) Are we doing everything for God's glory? (a question of motivation)
  - 2) Are we trusting God? (a question of faith)
  - 3) Are we eternity-minded and turning from the love of money?  
(a question of priorities and control)
  - *How can you tell what motivates you?*
  - *Why is God concerned about your priorities (Matthew 6:24)?*
  
3. **The Rock's Vision:** *By 2020, we plan to multiply into 20 services and have a permanent facility in Sandy to help us win the lost, build the believer, and send the sanctified.*

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” — Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

  - *How does our dream fit Isaiah 43:19?*
  - *How can this dream direct your prayers?*
  - *How can a permanent facility help make a “healthy” church?*
  - *How can a permanent facility help spiritually transform the community beyond our walls?*
  - *How can a permanent facility help meet real (physical) needs of real people?*
  - *How can a permanent facility help plant future churches?*
  - *What questions do you have about the upcoming capital campaign and the building acquisition process? To find answers on our website, go to [www.experiencetherock.com](http://www.experiencetherock.com) and follow the links.*

**Prayer**

Pray for the person/couple on your right. “*God, please reveal to (person/couple) how they will be a part of Your plan for The Rock Church. Bless them during this journey.*”

## Lesson Two — ROOTS: Stewardship

The Rock Church: week of September 29, 2008

**Icebreaker:** What were your primary responsibilities in your first job? How did you do?

### **Matthew 25:14-21,24-29 (NLT)**

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a trip. He called together his servants and gave them money to invest for him while he was gone. He gave five bags of gold to one, two bags of gold to another, and one bag of gold to the last — dividing it in proportion to their abilities — and then left on his trip. The servant who received the five bags of gold began immediately to invest the money and soon doubled it. The servant with two bags of gold also went right to work and doubled the money. But the servant who received the one bag of gold dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money for safekeeping.

“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of gold said, ‘Sir, you gave me five bags of gold to invest, and I have doubled the amount.’ The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

“Then the servant with the one bag of gold came and said, ‘Sir, I know you are a hard man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth and here it is.’

“But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! You think I’m a hard man, do you, harvesting crops I didn’t plant and gathering crops I didn’t cultivate? Well, you should at least have put my money into the bank so I could have some interest. Take the money from this servant and give it to the one with the ten bags of gold. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away.’”

### **Questions**

1. Who owns your “bags of gold” — your time, talents and resources? How much do you own? Do you struggle with that? Why or why not?
2. How does God divide up His resources? What does that say about your abilities? Your strengths and weaknesses?
3. Who decides how to manage the money? Who judges the outcome? Are you closer to a “good and faithful” servant or a “wicked and lazy” servant? Why?
4. What struggles do you have that make it difficult to be an effective manager for God?
5. Regarding your “bags of gold,” what is your best investment/management strategy? How does this strategy help the body of Christ?

### **Prayer**

Pray for the person/couple on your right. *“God, please bless (person/couple) that they may overcome (struggle) so that their (bags of gold) may bless the body of Christ.”*

## Lesson Three — ROOTS: Sacrifice

The Rock Church: week of October 6, 2008

**Icebreaker:** What was the best gift you ever received?

### **2 Samuel 24:18-25 (NLT)**

“On that day Gad went to David and said to him, ‘Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.’ So David went up, as the Lord had commanded through Gad. When Araunah looked and saw the king and his men coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. Araunah said, ‘Why has my lord the king come to his servant?’ ‘To buy your threshing floor,’ David answered, ‘so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped.’ Araunah said to David, ‘*Let my lord the king take whatever pleases him* and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. O king, Araunah gives all this to the king.’ Araunah also said to him, ‘May the Lord your God accept you.’ But the king replied to Araunah, ‘No, I insist on paying you for it. ***I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.***’ So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.”

### **Questions**

1. Do you think David’s sacrifice meant more to God because David paid for it with his own money? Why or why not?
2. When you consider what you give to God, how much would fall under the category of “offerings that cost me nothing?”
3. What prevents you from saying “take whatever pleases you” to your King? What do you fear He might take that you want to keep?

### **Mark 12:41-44 (NLT)**

“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling His disciples to Him, Jesus said, ‘I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on.’”

### **Questions**

4. What determines a gift’s value before God?
5. Why has God included the act of giving as an important part of the Christian lifestyle? How is your offering the purest expression of worship?
6. Knowing that the value of a gift is determined by its value to the giver, what have you given to God that was close to your heart? How did giving it make you feel?

### **Prayer**

Pray for the person/couple on your right. “*God, please bless (person/couple) that they may be a great giver of the gifts You have given them, and may they receive their reward in heaven.*”

## Lesson Four — ROOTS: Commitment

The Rock Church: week of October 13, 2008

**Icebreaker:** Who is someone in your life you admire for being generous?

The greatest example of *lifestyle stewardship* is found in the life of Christ. As you consider your own involvement, examine the example of Christ — the perfect model.

- A. Jesus came to do the Father's business.** "Why were you searching for Me?" He asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in My Father's house?" Luke 2:49 (NLT)
- B. Jesus assessed His lifestyle.** "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped." Philippians 2:5-6 (NLT)
- C. Jesus ordered His priorities.** "But made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross." Philippians 2:7-8
- D. Jesus allocated His resources.** "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9 (NLT)
- E. Jesus' stewardship was rewarded.** "Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:9-11 (NLT)

### Questions

1. What do you think it must have been like for Jesus to step out of heaven and become human? How does Jesus demonstrate the perfect example of lifestyle stewardship?
2. What would you say your number one priority is as reflected by your time and money?
3. Is it a true statement that when buying things for yourself you tend to be liberal (i.e. find a way to make it work), but when giving to God you become conservative (i.e. justifying why it won't work)? Give a specific example in your life. Have you ever adjusted your lifestyle or put off a purchase for the sole purpose of giving more to God?
4. Do you feel in your heart an excitement and enthusiasm for giving to God, or does it hurt to give up your time, treasure and talent? Which feels the best? Which is the hardest to give?
5. In Jesus' example (steps B through D), He gives us the keys to success for lifestyle stewardship:
  - a) reassess your lifestyle
  - b) reorder your priorities
  - c) reallocate your resourcesDoes this seem like a reasonable approach? What would be your first step in reordering your life to contribute more to God's cause?

### Prayer

Pray for the person/couple on your right. "God, please bless (person/couple) that they may (reorder their life) to be a great steward of the gifts You have given them so that they may receive their reward in heaven."

**Lesson Five — ROOTS: Faith**  
The Rock Church: week of October 20, 2008

**Icebreaker:** Whom did you idolize as a kid? Why?

**Questions**

*“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.”* Romans 10:17 (NASB)

- Do you have a plan for routinely hearing from God’s Word? If so, what is it and how did you get started on it?
- What things have you done that have been the most helpful in making your time with God productive?
- The Bible is a foreign book to many today. What things helped you get started? Where do you go for help when you don’t understand? How would you help someone begin the habit of reading their Bible?

*“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”* 1 Peter 1:6-8 (NIV)

- What are some difficulties that you have faced in the past that you now see have made you stronger?
- What are some difficulties/pressures that you currently are experiencing? What do you think God wants to accomplish in your life through them? What can you do to help make sure this happens?

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”*  
Colossians 2:6

*“We live by faith, not by sight.”* 2 Corinthians 5:7

- What is the most difficult thing for you to trust God with?
- What is the next step of faith that you believe God wants to take you through?

**Prayer**

Pray for the person/couple on your right. *“God, please bless (person/couple) that they may have the courage to follow Your leading.”*