

Fall 2009
SERMON BASED
SMALL GROUP SERIES:

Radical Road Trip: Revelation 2 and 3

Discussion Guide
Week #6

Small Groups 
Transforming Community @ RBCPC

Week #6 The Open Door

Revelation 3:7-13 (NIV)

7 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. 10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Numbers 13:25-14:4 (NIV)

25 At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land. 26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan." 30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Numbers 14

1 That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. 2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! 3 Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Notes For Reflection:

Facilitator's Tips of the Week:

Serving Together: One of the best ways to grow your group deeper in friendship and deeper in faith is to serve together. Maybe your group has engaged in projects before. Have you thought of a service project to do together during this holiday season?

Next Steps: The sermon based small groups series is ending soon, in just a couple weeks after the Revelation Road Trip series finishes. Have you started the conversation with your group about what you will do next? Consider these options:

- Take a break during the holiday season and meet monthly for dinner
- Read through one of the gospels together and discuss your thoughts and questions
- Check out a Small Group curriculum guide at the RBCPC library

Service Opportunity suggestions: Here are a few suggestions to get the thought processes and conversations started:

- Prepare Operations Christmas Child boxes. Pack them as a group, perhaps even have a 'packing party.' <http://www.rbcpc.org/operation-christmas-child/>
- Join the Advent Hospitality Team and assist with various tasks such as candle preparation, kids Xmas eve worship packets, cookies on the courtyard Xmas eve. contact: Rochelle Castillo: rochelle@rbcpc.org .
- Prepare lunch as a group for the day laborers on the corner – make it a group project!
- Assist in preparing and/or serving a Thanksgiving meal Nov. 20 at Abraxas High. Partner with RB Baptist Church. <http://www.rbbaptist.org/>
- Join in a Fire Restoration Landscape Workday at RB Baptist Church, Nov. 7. tom@rbbclife.com
- Clean out your closets, donate to the Resale Shop, and volunteer at the shop for a morning! Contact: Gayle Marrett: gmarrett@rbcpc.org

RBCPC Small Group Values

Connection | *"Love each other". John 15:17*

Study | *"You are my friends if you do what I command." Jn 15:14*

Prayer | *"If you remain in me and I in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you." Jn 15:7*

Support | *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." Jn 15:13*

Mission | *"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" Jn 15:5*

Week #6 The Open Door

START IT

- Describe an invitation you turned down as a child or young adult that now wish you could accept. What were you thinking and feeling when you turned it down?
- Describe a time when you stepped out on a limb and God met you there.
- Name as many of the promises God has made to his followers that you can.

STUDY IT

- Read both scripture passages. The Israelites and the church at Philadelphia are both invited into a kingdom. Compare their situations and reactions. What resources do they have to draw on? What obstacles do they face? What might they choose instead?
- In the case of the Israelites, Moses is able to persuade God not to strike them down with a plague for their disobedience. He eventually does guide their descendants into the land of milk and honey but not until all of the present unfaithful generation is dead. How does His reaction to them sit with you? Is it possible to miss out on the good that God has for us? Is there such a thing as too late with God?
- Oftentimes, God's opportunities require significant sacrifice (Matthew 13:44) and yet Jesus said that His burden is light (Matthew 11:30) and that His is the way of abundant life (John 10:10). What has your own experience with God taught you?
- What is the reward that Jesus promises to the church at Philadelphia for keeping his word? Could this be our reward as well?

LIVE IT

- How can you memorialize God's faithfulness to you and your family in a way that continually inspires you to trust in His leading?
- Name at least one small or big thing that God is inviting you to do. What resources do you have to put towards the task (even if common sense tells you they are insufficient)?

PRAY IT

- Take the opportunity to pray for one another, our church, the preschool at RBCPC.
- That God would give you a clear vision of the treasure He has for you.
- For courage to take a small step further with Him knowing that He promised you an abundant and fulfilled life.