

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: When We Decide

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: To the Defeated, Discouraged & Doubtful

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Memory Verse: Judges 2:16-17 NIV

Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the Lord's commands.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: God is pleased to use the defeated, discouraged, and doubtful when they turn to Him.

Read Judges 6:1-27

1. The Midianites were so oppressive that the Israelites began hiding (vv 2-5). When have you felt so overwhelmed or defeated that you wanted to hide or give up? How do you typically respond when life feels oppressive or out of control? What helps you to find your secure footing again in faith?
2. Desperation often drives us to finally turn to God (v 6). Why do you think we sometimes wait until things are really bad before turning to God? What is your rhythm of prayer? When you pray, do you have a specific prayer template you like to follow (e.g. A.C.T.S.)?
3. The prophet of God reminds His people about His faithfulness (v 8-9). Why do we so easily forget what God has done in the past? Share an instance from your own life where God revealed Himself clearly to you. How can



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remembering God's past faithfulness help us through any trials we are in?

4. The Israelites were in this situation because they did not listen to God (v 10). In what ways might we be ignoring God's direction in our lives today? What are some subtle ways disobedience can creep into our relationship with God or others?
5. As Gideon is talking with the angel of the Lord, he shares that he has heard the stories about God's wonders and might, but those stories don't seem to match his experience (v 13). Share about a time when you struggled, like Gideon, to see God's presence in a difficult time. Gideon's honesty shows us that God can handle our doubts and questions. When you have tough questions, what do you do with them?
6. Sometimes we long for a sign from God when what He is asking us to do seems risky or unclear (v 17). Why do you think we can struggle to trust God's Word without visible proof? What does asking for a sign convey about our view of the sufficiency of God's Word? What might it look like to move forward in faith even without all the answers?
7. As a result of Gideon's encounter with the angel of the Lord, he responds in worship (v 24). What do you think it meant for Gideon to call God "The Lord is Peace" in the midst of chaos and oppression? If you were to use a word or phrase to describe God's presence in your life, what would you say? How do you personally express worship and gratitude to God?
8. Even in fear, Gideon obeyed. His story reminds us that courage doesn't mean we don't feel fear (v 27). When have you felt afraid to obey God because of what others might think? What fears or pressures from others make it hard to fully follow Jesus?

Reach out to anyone who couldn't participate with your Small Group and make a personal connection with them this coming week (call, text, email, or personal face-to-face conversation.) Let them know they were missed, and you look forward to seeing them next time.



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