

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: When We Decide

Message: Weapons for War

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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 brings deliverance through those who answer the call, conquer their fear, and have not disqualified themselves.

Read Judges 6:28-40

1. When the people of the town wake up and see the altar to Baal demolished and the Asherah poles removed, the people are upset and want to kill Gideon (v 28-30). Gideon is living in a day when you could die for aligning yourself with YHWH. Where in our world today does following Jesus still come with extreme social, relational, or even physical risk? Within our American context, what are some costs we might face for aligning ourselves with Jesus? Have you ever faced any negative consequences for standing with Jesus?
2. Gideon was not only afraid of the townspeople but also of family (v 27), yet it is his father who defends Gideon against the mob (v 31). Have you ever feared the reaction of your family when you made a decision based on your faith? What happened? Gideon's father influenced his father. How can your faithfulness to God encourage or influence your family, even if they don't



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currently share your beliefs?

3. Gideon twice asks God for a sign through the fleece (v 36-40). He clearly believes in God but struggles with fear and doubt. Can you relate to Gideon's mix of faith and fear? Have you ever asked God for a sign? If so, how did it turn out? What did you learn about yourself and God?

Read Judges 7:1-25

4. God reduces Gideon's army from 32,000 to just 300 men so that Israel cannot boast in their own strength (v 2-8). What are some things in your life (e.g., resources, plans, self-sufficiency, distractions, human approval) that might prevent us from fully relying on God? How can we identify and prune these things?
5. God kindly provides Gideon with a sign of reassurance through the dream of the Midianite soldier (v 9-15). What does this teach us about God's character when we are hesitant or afraid? In what ways does God provide encouragement or confirmation to us when we're facing challenging situations?
6. Gideon's small army uses trumpets, jars and torches to rout the Midianites (v 16-22). If you were one of the soldiers chosen to stay, how would you be feeling? Why did this battle strategy work? What lessons does this chapter teach us about the relationship between obedience and seeing God work?
7. An army of 300 causes an enemy force of 135,000 (Judges 8:10) to flee (v 22). How does this story flip the world's conventional understanding of strength and weakness on its head? Where do you see this principle of God using the "weak" to shame the "strong" at play in other parts of the Bible or in your own life?
8. Through God's intervention, the enemy turns on itself and flees. As they flee, the Israelites rise up to pursue them (v 22-25). What does this moment reveal about the balance between trusting God and taking action? How does this apply to challenges you're facing right now where you need both trust and action?



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