

Community Group Discussion Questions

“How To Win Without Losing It All”

Judges 6-8

Setting: Judges is the period in Israelite history after the conquering of the Promised Land (Joshua) and before the installation of kings (1 Samuel). The land was protected, defended, and ruled by judges who were called by God. However, we see in the book that there is the Judges’ cycle for Israel: peace/prosperity, falling away into sin, a foreign oppressor being raised by God as discipline, crying out for a savior judge, and being saved by God through the judge. What we see in the book is that God raises up unlikely judges to redeem Israel. This is all pointing to Jesus, the ultimate unlikely judge, the Savior of the world.

Summary: Gideon started out weak and dependent on God for strength. But when God gave success and strength, he turned away from God. How can we remain dependent on God even in times of joy and plenty and success when all seems to be going well?

Opening Question

1. How do times of hardship or prosperity affect your faith?

(Answers may vary.)

Pastor Brett preached to us about the life of Gideon. Through this judge, we see the need for us to be weak and dependent on the Lord and the call for us to be faithful/dependent even when we achieve success.

Read Matthew 6:1-3, 6-17, 25-27, 34, 36-40; 7:2,4; 8:16-17, 22-25, 27, 30-31

2. An idol is something that we deem most important in our life so we give up all else to have it. What are some idols in your life that might make you forget God at times?

(Answers will vary.)

3. In what ways have you felt like you have needed to “test” God to see if he is with you? What do we have today that Gideon did not have, which means we don’t have to test God to know if He is with us? How does that help you?

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(Answers may vary.)

Three things we have that Gideon did not. First, we have the complete and closed Word of God. This is the special revelation of God: His will, our salvation, and the truth. God's word is perfect, infallible, and inerrant. It reveals to us the human condition and the truth of Jesus Christ. These are the words breathed out by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Second, we have the Son of God with us. He is Immanuel, God with us, and He purchased our salvation with His blood. He lived the life we could not live and is now our righteousness. He died the death that was for us and is now the propitiation for our sins. We are united to Him in our hearts, and we know that He is interceding for us as the Great High Priest.

Lastly, we have the Holy Spirit as the seal of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13). He is with us and dwells in our hearts (John 14:17). He is the One who helps us, comforts us, and reveals to us Jesus (John 14:26-27). He gives us a new heart, and He illuminates our darkened hearts to see the truth in His Word.)

4. How do you respond to God and others when you feel weak and afraid? How about when you feel strong and victorious?

(Answers may vary.)

5. How do we know God showed Gideon grace despite his failures? Do you think He will do the same for you?

(Gideon's story does not end well. He says the right things in saying they need to follow God as their king, not him. However, he builds himself an idol for everyone to worship. He deifies himself and stamps his success as an object of worship. Not only that, we see he names his son, Abimelech, which means my father is king. He might have said the right words, but his heart is far from the Lord.

But we know God has shown him grace, because Gideon is still in the hall of faith. God doesn't see him according to his brokenness and flaws, but God sees him according to the righteousness that comes through his faith. This is the way God sees us in Christ as well. He doesn't see us according to our failures and brokenness, but He sees us according to Christ's righteousness, given to us through faith. Hallelujah!)

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Final Thoughts: *In times of hardship an prosperity, it is so easy for our hearts to trust in ourselves, lust after worldly treasures, or seek after earthly glory. However, the story of Gideon shows us that we need to constantly be weak, humble, and dependent on the Lord. We are to trust and worship Him alone. At the same time, if we are in Christ, we give glory to God that He doesn't see us according to our flaws and brokenness but according to Christ's righteousness. Hallelujah!*

Additional Questions

1. When God finally helps you overcome your weakness, and gives you the victory or success you have been asking him for, what will you do? Will you stop praying and seeking God when things are going well and you are winning? What will keep you from going back to your idols when you are strong?