

Study Guide “Gideon” from 4-15-2018

Key Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation (adversity) has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it (undergo the hardship).”

Judges 6:11-12 “Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!”

Judges 6:16 “And the Lord said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’”

Judges 6:25 “Now it came to pass the same night that the Lord said to him, ‘Take your father’s young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it.’”

Matthew 25:21 “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

Start Talking:

- Pastor Baugh pointed out what he called a repeating cycle:

God’s blessing — —> spiritual complacency — —> sin —-> cry for help

Have you ever found yourself in this cycle? How did you get there? How did you break it? How did it make you feel to break free? Share.

- Pastor Baugh said, “God doesn’t see us the way we see ourselves or the way others see us.” How would your life be changed if you truly lived with the realization of God’s actual view of you? What would change?

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- Are you willing to ask God to show you your true potential from his perspective?

Start Thinking:

- Judges 6:1-6 describes how the sin of the Israelites led to them being overwhelmed at the hands of the Midianites and the Amalekites. Have you ever felt like you were in a fearful, oppressive, never-ending situation? Did you surrender it into God’s hands? Share.
- Pastor Baugh said that we are in a situation in which the today’s culture opposes a Biblical world view. Can you think of some ways that you can be a leader for Godly morals and principals in the workplace, school, neighborhoods, or in your family? List some specifics.

Start Sharing:

- Have you ever realized that God had put you in a risky place in which you were forced to see His hand moving in your life? Share.
- Have you ever experienced being faithful with a small responsibility, which lead to a bigger responsibility? (Matthew 25:21) Why do you think God often uses this process? Share.
- In Judges 6: 25, God told Gideon to tear down the idol of his father. Does God want you to destroy any idols or strongholds from your past? Share.

Start Praying:

Lord, help us to see that we often can’t find our own way of escape from adversity or call upon our own strength to bear through it. Lead us to ever looking upward to You, Our Strength, Our Redeemer. (Psalm 61:3)
Amen

Start Doing:

- Write down one way God is stretching you beyond your comfort level, so that you are more useful for His purposes.

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- Will your legacy be, “He (She) lived up to his (her) expected potential”, or, “God really did something through him (her)”? If you want the second legacy to be yours, what risks should you be taking now in order for God to do something great through your obedience and courage?
- Are you willing to actually take those risks?