

The Story: Chapter 8
A Few Good Men...And Women

Pastor Kevin Donoho
June 4, 2023

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Judges 6:7-17, 34 & Judges 7:8-11

DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEGMENTS:

- 1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE LEADER.**
- 2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX QUESTIONS:**

Opening Discussion

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

Thought #1: Why do we struggle to listen?

Read Judge's 6:7-10

"When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."

Does that last line hit a little close to home? Hearing and listening are two very different skill sets. And often, just like the Israelites, when it comes to hearing from the Lord, it stems from how well we are listening. The breakdown in our communication with God isn't from His lack of speaking or even His volume. But rather in our struggle to *listen* to and *trust* what He has to say.

Pastor Kevin noted that we often think about our perspective and response in relationships instead of truly listening. And that often, this practice can bleed over into our communication with God.

Can you recall past or present times when you struggled to hear from the Lord? Can you notice now how the lack of hearing may have been tied to a lack of listening? Are there times you have "listened" to God to respond or from your perspective instead of His? When you shift your perspective, can you recognize how He was working things for your good? Have there been times when your struggle to listen was based on a struggle to trust? What does it look like for you to listen WITH trust? Is there a circumstance or situation in your life right now that God is asking you to trust Him in? Share this with your group and consider inviting them to accountability for this.

Pastor Kevin reminded us that listening to a voice other than ours means we must be open to receiving a different way of thinking. Are there things you hear from God that challenge your thinking? Things you struggle to accept or receive? God called Gideon a warrior long before He was one. Where is God calling you to look beyond who you are in this moment and believe in whom God has called you to be?

Thought #2: Why do we struggle with a new reality?

Read Judges 6:13-15

"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.' The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

Just like Gideon, the gap between who we are and whom God has called us to be can feel vast. Pastor Kevin reminded us that God is

