

bigIdea small group discussion

Sometimes we think that everyone else is more qualified or likely than we are to be a part of God's story. But even though we may feel insignificant, unimportant or unworthy, God says we are not only valuable—we are wanted! Even though we, or even others, would declare us unlikely, God says we're not. He declares the unlikely, "likely." Because God wants people who are available—He always picks availability over ability.



BIG IDEA: God takes our not enough and makes it more than enough.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who was your favorite super hero and why? If you could be a super hero for a day, who would it be and why?
2. What is your favorite sports underdog movie? (*Remember the Titans, Rudy, Miracle, Seabiscuit, Secretariat, Coach Carter, etc.*) Why are there so many underdog movies out there?
3. Share a time when you experienced God's strength through your weakness.
4. *Read Judges 6:1-6.* Prior to Gideon saving the day, what was the situation in Israel? What did the oppressed and fearful Israelites do? (v. 7) How did God respond? (vv. 7-10) What did the Lord declare to Gideon? How did he respond? What questions did Gideon ask the Lord? What do Gideon's questions reveal about his fears?
5. *Read Judges 6:7-12.* God saw Gideon as a mighty hero. Gideon saw himself as weak and one of the least. **What are some wrong beliefs about yourself that God is helping you to overcome?** What does God say about you in His Word? What would it look like in your behavior if you believed what God says instead of your feelings, weaknesses or circumstances?
6. What promises did God make to Gideon? (*Read Judges 6:12, 14, 16, 22*) Make a list of all the Lord's declarations and promises to Gideon. Which of these promises apply to us today? How difficult is it for you to simply take God at His Word and trust His promises? Why is God's word sometimes not enough to convince us to trust God?
7. *Read Judges 6:13-15.* What does Gideon's questions reveal about why he lacked trust in God? What circumstances in your life make it difficult for you to trust God?
8. What fleeces (signs) did Gideon put out to test the Lord? When have you tried the "fleece" method of determining God's will? What was the result? Like Gideon, were you tempted to do it again?
9. In one night, Gideon tore down an altar to the false god, Baal, built another and made sacrifices to the true God. What role do you think this played in the defeat of the Midianites? What would you like to "tear down" in your life? What would you like to "build up" to the glory of God?
10. In what way was Gideon just an average guy with common fears and weaknesses? In what ways can you relate to Gideon? Where are you uncertain, cautious or afraid of God's will or calling for your life? What are some of your negative absolutes? In what way are you feeling weak and outnumbered?
11. *Read Judges 7:8-1.* Why did God want to reduce the size of Gideon's army? What significance does God's method of selecting the 300 man army have? Why did God have Gideon spy on the enemy's camp? (vv. 9-12) How did God confirm for Gideon that he had truly heard from God? What means has God used to encourage and build up your faith?

THINK ABOUT IT

Something big about God is that He doesn't exactly operate like most of us. What we mean is, He chooses the most unlikely people to work through. He shows up in the most unlikely places, and asks us to respond in ways that are unlikely and go against our normal response. What it all boils down to is this—you and I are unlikely people God uses in unlikely places to respond in unlikely ways.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What areas in your life are you feeling weak and you think it unlikely that God could use you? Share those with the group.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

God said, "My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10