



LIFEgroup STUDY GUIDE

What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP).
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

PURSUING LIFE TOGETHER

SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW

NOTE to the LIFEgroup Leader: This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

OPEN IN PRAYER

STARTER QUESTIONS:

Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?

What stood out to you from the message this week?

MAIN IDEA:

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

How did this verse speak to you in your life?

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?

How can we pray for you as a group?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

DELIGHT
“God is my Peace”

King David: “*Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*”
Psalm 37:4 (ISV)

THE NAMES OF GOD

Jehovah-Tsidkenu-"God is my Righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:6)
You accept me and forgive me because of Jesus!

Jehovah-Shammah-"God is Present with me" (Ezekiel 48:35)
You are here! I am never alone!

Jehovah-Rohi-"God is my Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)
You lead me and care for me like a good shepherd!

Jehovah-Shalom-"God is my Peace" (Judges 6:24)
You give me peace in spite of circumstances!

The Story of Gideon (1,200 BC)
(Judges 6-9)

God’s Judgment:

- Active wrath is when God acts—directly—to put a stop to evil.
- Passive wrath is when God does not act - he just withdraws his favor and protection, and that is the judgment.

Romans 1 (NIV)

- “*God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity . . .*”
- “*God gave them over to shameful lusts . . .*”
- “*God gave them over to a depraved mind . . .*”

“There are times when God says, “Okay, have it your way.” He takes away his hand of blessing and covering over your life, steps back, and says, “You’re on your own now. Good luck.” And Nineveh is destroyed by Babylon. And your body is torn apart by drugs. The scandal breaks. You get fired for cheating. Your kids grow up to hate you. Your marriage is wrecked by an affair... God’s way of dealing with sin is usually to step back and let it run itself into the ground. It turns out that sin is its own punishment, and obedience its own reward.”

-John Mark Comer, “God Has a Name”

“The Israelites did evil in the Lord’s sight. So the Lord handed them over to the Midianites for seven years.”
Judges 6:1 (NLT)

Why we often lose our peace...

- We often lose our peace because of our own poor decisions

“I told you, I am the Lord your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now live. But you have not listened to me.” Judges 6:10 (NLT)

- We often lose our peace because of the difficult circumstances around us

“The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east would attack Israel, camping in the land and destroying crops as far away as Gaza. They left the Israelites with nothing to eat, taking all the sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys. These enemy hordes, coming with their livestock and tents, were as thick as locusts; they arrived on droves of camels too numerous to count. And they stayed until the land was stripped bare. So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites.”

Judges 6:2-6 (NLT)

- We often lose our peace when it seems like God doesn't really care

Gideon: *“Why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, The Lord brought us up out of Egypt? But now the Lord has abandoned us...”*

Judges 6:13 (NLT)

- We often lose our peace when we feel helpless to make a difference

“Gideon replied, “how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!”

Judges 6:15 (NLT)

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, The courage to change the things I can. And the wisdom to know the difference.” – Reinhold Niebuhr

1. Pray about everything that can be changed

“So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help. When they cried out to the Lord because of Midian, the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites. ...Then the angel of the Lord came...”

Judges 6:6-11 (NLT)

“Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand.” Philippians 4:6-7 (LB)

2. Accept everything that can't be changed.

Gideon: *“Why has all this happened to us?”*

Judges 6:13 (NLT)

What comforts us is God's presence in our lives,
not God's explanations

- The Prophet reminds everyone how God was with them in the past (Judges 6:8-9)
- An angel confirms that the Lord is with Gideon in the present (Judges 6:12)
- The angel promises the Lord will be with Gideon in the future (Judges 6:16)

Real Peace comes from the confidence that God is with you
in the midst of any and every circumstance.

3. Trust God through it all.

“The Lord said to him, “Peace to you, do not be afraid; you shall not die.” Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it The Lord is Peace. (Jehovah Shalom)”
Judges 6:23-24 (NASB)

“Christ himself is our peace.” Ephesians 2:14 (NCV)

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.”
2 Thessalonians 3:16 (NIV)