



Faith Community Church
Gideon, Part 1
(Judges, Part 4)

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide



Opening Prayer: Ask God to help us move from winepress whining to walking warrior.

Icebreaker: What do you think of when we say the word "idol"?

Key Takeaways:

1. The Winepress Moment: Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress, but God called him a "Mighty Man of Valor". God sees our potential through His power, not our current circumstances or failures.
2. Fighting Feelings with Facts: Gideon felt abandoned, but the fact was that God was standing right there. We must learn to preach the truth of Scripture to our emotions.
3. Uprooting Idols: Before Gideon could lead the nation to victory, he had to tear down the altar of Baal in his own father's backyard.
4. Discerning the Will of God: We have three tools to discern God's Will: Obedience to what we already know, Prayer (aligning our hearts), and The Word (the ultimate filter).

Discussion Questions:

1. Last week, did you worship in mundane tasks, identify your tent peg, or answer a calling? Tell us about it!
2. Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress out of fear. In what ways do we "hide" in our lives when we are afraid of what the world or our enemies might do? (John 9:18-23)
3. God called Gideon a "mighty man of valor" before he had done anything brave. Adam called Eve the mother of all living before she ever bore a child. (Sunday is Mother's Day!) How does it change your perspective to know that God names you based on who you will be in Him, rather than who you are right now? (Psalm 139:15-16, Isaiah 43:1-4)
4. Feelings are not always reliable. Can you share a time when you felt God was absent, but later, you realized He was actually very close? (Psalm 139:7-10, Ps 23:4)

5. Gideon's first assignment was to tear down his father's altar. Why does God often require us to deal with personal sins before He gives us victories? (Num 22:22-35)
6. What are some of the "altars of Baal" (modern idols) that tend to creep into a believer's life and hinder our relationship with God? (John 12:42-43, Luke 12:16-21)
7. Gideon asked for a sign (the fleece) because he was hesitant. What are ways we can confirm God's Will and direction in our lives? (Prov 6:23, Jer 29:13, Prov 20:18)
8. God's Word is our "lamp" (Ps 119:105). When you are facing a big decision, how do you practically use Scripture to filter your options? (Come up with some PRACTICAL ways!) (2 Tim 3:16-17, Ps 119:66-72)

Practical Applications

1. The Focus Challenge: This week, identify one excuse you have made for not obeying God's call (e.g., "I'm a failure," "I'm too weak"). Find a Scripture that describes God's power through weakness. Speak it out loud every morning, and take one step of obedience.
2. An "Altar Audit": Take an hour this week to sit in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit, "Is there an 'Asherah pole' or an 'altar' in my life that needs to be cut down?" This could be a habit, a toxic relationship, or a secret sin. Commit to "tearing it down" immediately through confession and accountability.
3. Simple Obedience: Instead of asking God for a "big sign" for your future, identify one thing God has already told you to do in His Word that you haven't done yet (e.g., forgiving someone, tithing, serving). Commit to doing that one thing this week, trusting that clarity for the next step follows obedience.
4. Speaking potential. Find someone in your life in whom you've seen potential for something - something they're not yet doing. Tell them the potential you've seen, and encourage them to grow with God in that area.

Closing Prayer: Father, we know that You are not limited because we are cramped or weak. We give ourselves to You as surrendered vessels. Help us to go out this week not in our own strength, but in the confidence that You are with us. In Jesus' name.