

### How to EMBRACE God's good thing!

1. **Don't** negotiate with God...obey.
2. **Listen** to Godly counsel.
3. **Follow** Godly examples.
4. **Enjoy** God's grace to YOU.
5. **Lead** yourselves to God's path.

### Challenge:

- ARE you doing something to mess up God's good thing in your life, OR are you guarding and protecting it?
- Are you saying YES to His NO... or saying NO to His YES?
- What ferrel THING have you brought into God's peace?
- What do you need to call out as an enemy of God's PEACE?

### Life Group Homework

For the week of September 22, 2019

### MY STORY

1. What is your favorite time of year and why?
2. What was your takeaway from last week's study?

### QUICK REVIEW

3. Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

### DIGGING DEEPER

#### Judges 5:31b-6:10 (NLT)

*31b Then there was peace in the land for forty years.*

#### Gideon Becomes Israel's Judge

*1 The Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight. So the LORD handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. 2 The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds. 3 Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east would attack Israel, 4 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. 5 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. 6 So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help.*

*7 When they cried out to the LORD because of Midian, 8 the LORD sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt. 9 I rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who oppressed you. I drove out your enemies and gave you their land. 10 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."*

4. How many years had the Israelites experienced peace?
5. What happened to their peace? What did they do?
6. Pastor Craig told us the lie people believe is as follows: I can reach across the fence, grab the thing (the secret sin) and bring it into God's peace, without disrupting the peace, and enjoy it. Why is this a lie?

One of the important things to note from this passage is that when the Lord handed the Israelites over to the Midianites it was a removal of His divine spiritual protection. He was giving them what they wanted and allowing the consequences of their actions. This was God stepping back and allowing them to experience the results of their choices. Because of the way this reads in English, many think God is punishing them, but it is not punishment. It is allowance of consequence and removal of protection.

7. What did the Israelites experience as a result of their choices?
8. When God sent the prophet to the Israelites, what was His message to them?
9. God reminded them of His mighty deeds in rescuing the people. Why is it important to remember the mighty deeds of God in our own lives?
10. What was the goal of the prophet? What was God trying to get the Israelites to do?

### TAKING IT HOME

This week Pastor Craig gave us 5 different things we can do to mess up God's peace in our lives. We will be unpacking these at the personal level.

#### Negotiate with God.

11. Have you ever tried to negotiate with God to keep a sin in your life? What did it look like?

12. Why is this a bad way to find peace with God?

A couple weeks ago we discussed the idea of people being in our boat (life) along with us. These next two thoughts mirror that same idea.

**Don't listen to Godly counsel.**

13. What does this look like in your life?

**Don't follow Godly examples.**

14. Who are your Godly examples?

**Reject God's grace to YOU.**

15. What is God's grace?

16. Have you ever rejected God's grace in your life?

17. What are some of the reasons people reject God's grace?

**Don't lead yourselves to God's path.**

18. This is about self-care and growth. What do you need to do to lead yourself to God's path?

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS

19. Of the 5 points listed above, is there anything that you need to do differently?

20. What mighty deed has God done in your life that you can thank Him for? Who can you share that with this week?

## Gideon Series - "Against the Odds"

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

September 22, 2019

**Topic:** *How to mess up God's good thing!*

**Thread:** It's God who leads me to **PEACE** and **REST** over my enemies.

*"<sup>31</sup>Then there was peace in the land for forty years.*

*"The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight. So the Lord handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. <sup>2</sup> The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds. <sup>3</sup> Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east would attack Israel, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help.*

*<sup>7</sup> When they cried out to the Lord because of Midian, <sup>8</sup> the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt. <sup>9</sup> I rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who oppressed you. I drove out your enemies and gave you their land. <sup>10</sup> 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 5:31b-6:10 (NLT)*

Jesus **restores** PEACE.

*"...through 'Jesus' God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth... <sup>21</sup> This includes you who were once far away from God...separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. <sup>22</sup> Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ... As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault." Colossians 1:20-22 (NLT)*

***How to mess up God's good thing!***

1. **Negotiate** with God.

*"You have not obeyed my voice."*

2. **Don't listen** to Godly counsel.

3. **Don't follow** Godly examples.

*I Corinthians 10:11 (NLT) "Examples for us to follow..."*

4. **Reject** God's grace to YOU.

5. **Don't lead** yourselves to God's path.

*"But you have not listened to me.""*