

Life Group Homework
For the week of September 29, 2019

MY STORY

1. Where is your favorite place to visit 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 6:11-24 (ESV)

11 Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." 13 And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." 14 And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" 15 And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." 16 And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." 17 And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. 18 Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay till you return."

19 So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. 20 And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. 21 Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. 22 Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." 23 But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

4. Where was Gideon working on the wheat when the angel of the Lord appeared to him?

5. Why is a wine press a bad place to separate wheat from chaff?
6. Why would Gideon be separating wheat there?
7. How does the Lord greet Gideon?
8. What is Gideon's response to this greeting?
9. What kind of response is that?
10. What does the Lord direct him to do?
11. In verse 15, Gideon's response could be considered an excuse to not obey, or doubt in his ability to do what God is asking. How does God encourage him, and how does that connect to the theme of this series? (The odds never matter if God is with us.)
12. Does Gideon believe the Lord is with him? Why or why not?
13. What did it take for Gideon to believe?
14. In the context of the Midianites taking all of the Israelite's food supplies, how hard was it for Gideon to offer this meal to the Lord?
15. Once Gideon realizes that it was the Lord and is afraid for his life, how does the Lord comfort him?

TAKING IT HOME

16. In this passage Gideon was afraid of his enemies and was hiding. Where did the Lord meet him? Have you ever had the Lord meet you when you were running and hiding?
17. What were Gideon's expectations of God?
18. Have you ever expected the Lord to do the same thing twice in your life; if so, what was it?
19. What did God know about Gideon that he didn't know about himself?
20. What is your identity in Christ? Who are you in God's eyes?
21. Do you believe it, or like Gideon, do you doubt it?
22. What can you do to trust the truth more?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

23. Reread the story of Gideon; how do you relate to him?
24. In prayer this week, ask God to reveal more of your identity to you.
25. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 and meditate on how this truth applies to you.

Gideon Series - "Against the Odds"

PASTOR CHERYL BANGS

September 29, 2019

Topic: *There are holes in my bucket!*

"Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!" "Sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, 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 and handed us over to the Midianites." Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!" Judges 6:11-14 (NLT)

"The Lord said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man." Judges 6:16 (NLT)

1. **What** is causing the **hole** in your **bucket**?
2. God **knows** my **hiding** place and He **shows** up.
3. You are **not** out of **God's** reach.
4. **God** sees our **true identity**.
5. Stay **faithful** even in the **hard**.
6. An **encounter** with the Lord brings **peace**.