

3. Wisdom

- We learn from the experience of others as they sincerely follow Christ, His Word and discern God's leading.

"For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" Acts 14:28

Proverbs 12:15

Proverbs 13:10

Challenge:

- Do you sincerely want God's clarity?
- Will you take the next steps when they become clear?
- What do you need to do next?

Life Group Homework

For the week of October 20, 2019

MY STORY

1. If you were stranded on a desert island, what three items would you want to have with you?
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 6:36-40(ESV)

The Sign of the Fleece

³⁶ Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, ³⁷ behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said." ³⁸ And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew." ⁴⁰ And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

4. What does Gideon ask God to do?
5. Why do you think Gideon asked God to give him a sign in two different forms?
6. Why was Gideon afraid that God's anger would burn against him?
7. Should we use this kind of test in our daily lives today to seek confirmation from the Lord?

When we read this story in the Old Testament and look for personal applications for our lives today, we need to remember that it was written in a different time and culture. God spoke through prophets and judges to the people of Israel. He speaks differently today. We can glean principles and ethics through the Old Testament, but we no longer live by the religious and ceremonial laws that Israel did. When reading these stories, we must also look through the perspective of the New Testament and the New Covenant. In the next section we will unpack this idea.

TAKING IT HOME

Hebrews 1:1-3 (ESV)

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

8. How did God speak long ago, and would Gideon be included in that? Why or why not?
9. How does God speak today?
10. There is a principle to be considered here. If Jesus is how God speaks to us today, how would you find confirmation for what God's calling is on your life?
11. What other ways can God speak?

Gideon Series - "Against the Odds"

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

October 20, 2019

12. What is a common way people look for God to speak to them?

13. Are there times when the wrong thing can feel like the right thing?

14. If I am looking for confirmation in my circumstances, is it possible for Satan to open a door for me that looks like a good thing but will actually harm me in the long run? Can you give an example?

15. Like Gideon, many times we need multiple confirmations from different sources. In his case he was sincerely wanting to do the will of God but God had already given him direction. His request for confirmation is a common reaction many of us feel. How can we discern God's specific will in our lives?

Below are 5 questions to help sort through this maze:

- What does God already teach about this specific issue? When Scripture is clear, do that. If the issue I am facing is not clearly addressed in Scripture, the remaining questions will help bring more clarity.
- What is the cost if I step into this calling? Will it be minimal, like losing 20 minutes of sleep to do my Chair Time, or will it cost significant time away from loved ones? Can I rearrange my schedule better and find a better shift? For example, give up TV or social media time.
- Who is a godly and wise person I can run this by to get their insights?
- Am I letting my feelings be the guide instead of the truth? Is there some lie I believe stopping me from obedience?
- Is there something God has already said to do that I have been putting off? What is one step I can take to fulfill that calling?

16. Of the five things listed above, which one do you need to do in your life?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

17. Read through the list above and ask God if there is something on this list you need to do?

18. Read Hebrews 1 about the supremacy and finality of Christ. Ask the Lord if you have been looking to other places for clarity other than to Him.

Thread: It is God who leads us to PEACE and REST over our **enemies**.

(In this context) **Enemy = Anything preventing me from succeeding/living into my calling.**

Passage: Judges 6:33-40 (NLT)

What is the point of this story?

- Gideon wanted to **hear** God clearly.
- Gideon is **gathering** his confidence.
- Gideon is **determining** his next steps.

A Curious Question: WHY was GOD patient with him over at least 3 days time?

- He is the example of **patience**.
- He's a father — patience is **required**.
- He's a father — Gideon's **sincerity** drew out the father's patience.

How do we listen for clarity, gather confidence, and determine next steps today?

Hebrews 1:1-2,2:1

"This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him." Matthew 17:5

John 15:27

1. **God's Word**
Luke 24:32

"And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth." Acts 17:11

2 Timothy 3:16

2. **Discerning the Whispers of God**

- RED light - **STOP!**
- YELLOW light - **WAIT!**
- GREEN light - **GO!**
- Leading of the Holy Spirit — promptings of God.

"But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you." John 14:2