

Action Item: What smaller things have I neglected/deferred to my detriment?

- (Chair Time, weekly church engagement, Life Groups)

• _____

Action Item: What do I need to do to bring my life and callings into alignment?

• _____

3. All involved will say "*look what God has done.*"

- Whittling this down to a size that tells God's story.

Challenge:

- Connect to God's smaller things to make way for God's bigger things!

Life Group Homework

For the week of October 27, 2019

MY STORY

1. What is your cell phone lock screen or wallpaper?
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 7:2-8 (ESV)

The Lord said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'³ Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.' " Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

⁴And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go."⁵ So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, everyone who kneels down to drink."⁶ And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all

the rest of the people knelt down to drink water.⁷ And the Lord said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home."⁸ So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men.

4. How big was the force Gideon originally had?
5. What did God tell him to do to thin the crowd first and why?
6. What did God say after the 22,000 men left?

Judges 7:9-14 (ESV)

Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand.¹⁰ But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant.¹¹ And you shall hear what they say, and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp." Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outposts of the armed men who were in the camp.¹² And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance.¹³ When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade. And he said, "Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat."¹⁴ And his comrade answered, "This is no other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given into his hand Midian and all the camp."

7. How many Midianites and Amalekites were in the valley?
8. What does the dream tell us about the Midianites? What did they know?
9. How did God use the dream of the enemy to encourage Gideon?

TAKING IT HOME

10. Once again Gideon was obedient to God's direction. In each of these steps along the way, what emotion did Gideon seem to struggle with the most?

11. How would you define courage?

12. Did it require courage from Gideon to obey? If so, what does that imply?

13. Have you ever felt like Gideon and been afraid but obeyed anyway? What was it, and what was it like?

14. What area in your life are you afraid to take a step of obedience in?

As we wrap up this quarter, I encourage you to remember this: when God is for us and has called us to do something our *feelings* may tell us not to, when we step out in obedience the odds against us don't matter because God is greater than the circumstances.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Read Judges Chapter 6 and 7 and meditate on the following questions.

15. Is there something that God is calling me to do that I have been afraid of doing? What one thing can I do to take a step of obedience regarding that call?

16. Do I listen to my feelings to make decisions, or do I rely on God's Word to teach me truth in how I can grow?

Gideon Series - "Against the Odds"

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

October 27, 2019

TRUTH: When God is leading...the odds never matter!

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

Enemies: Anything that prevents me from successfully living into my callings.

Judges 7:1-8 (NLT)

"So Jerub-baal (that is, Gideon) and his army got up early and went as far as the spring of Harod. The armies of Midian were camped north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. ² The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength. ³ Therefore, tell the people, 'Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go home.' " So 22,000 of them went home, leaving only 10,000 who were willing to fight.

⁴ But the Lord told Gideon, "There are still too many! Bring them down to the spring, and I will test them to determine who will go with you and who will not." ⁵ When Gideon took his warriors down to the water, the Lord told him, "Divide the men into two groups. In one group put all those who cup water in their hands and lap it up with their tongues like dogs. In the other group put all those who kneel down and drink with their mouths in the stream." ⁶ Only 300 of the men drank from their hands. All the others got down on their knees and drank with their mouths in the stream.

⁷ The Lord told Gideon, "With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home." ⁸ So Gideon collected the provisions and rams' horns of the other warriors and sent them home. But he kept the 300 men with him."

1. Gideon put his **life** and **trust** in God alone.
 - **God** + **Gideon** are more than enough to succeed.

Action Item: Am I saying "NO" or "I CAN'T" to something God has challenged me to do?

- _____

2. This BIG GOD THING is **connected** to SMALLER GOD THINGS.

Action Item: What cost do you need to pay in the smaller things so the BIGGER things will come to you?

- _____