

• Then my _____

"The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense."

(Proverbs 27:9)

See Action Steps

• Then my _____

Action Steps:

1. I don't know everything, but what do I know God has made clear to me?
2. What habits will set me up for success?
3. How can I prepare ahead of time to make the things I need to START more certain to happen?
4. What can I do to make the things I need to STOP more difficult to do?

Check out these FREE online studies from Doug Britton for further study:

Seek to Please God (Not Others)

dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/please.god

Don't Take Things Personally

dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/not-personal

Be an Influencer, Not an Influencee

dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/be-an-influencer

Life Group Homework

For the week of January 19, 2020

MY STORY

- 1) Would you rather live where it only snows or where the temperature never falls below 100 degrees? Why?
- 2) What was your takeaway from last week's Life Group?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Pastor Craig shared an illustration about potential; how do you understand it?
- 4) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER/CHAIR TIME TOOLS

¹¹ 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. ¹² The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!"

¹³ "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."

¹⁴ Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

¹⁵ "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

(Judges 6:11-15 NLT)

Fight Fear by winning a battle in my HEAD.

The first thing Gideon had to do was to face the false thinking in his own head. This does not mean he did not still feel afraid, but it does mean that he stepped out into obedience in the face of opposition. I am convinced that this is the hardest battle each of us must face.

- 5) What was Gideon afraid of?
In what ways can you relate to Gideon's fears?

Fear stops us from seeing who God is – "The Lord is with us"

- 6) How else can fear stop us from seeing who God is?

Fear stops us from seeing who we are – "Mighty Warrior"

- 7) God calls Gideon a *Mighty Warrior*. How did Gideon see himself?
- 8) How does fear stop us from seeing our identity in Christ, and why is that important?

Fear sends my head space to the wrong place – "Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress"

- 9) How can fear send your head into the wrong place?
- 10) Have you ever feared something completely imaginary? If so, what was it, and did it come to pass?

There is a progression of battles we need to fight regarding fear in our lives. The first place is almost always within our head in our belief systems. Then we need to step into our home and fight the fears there.

Fight Fear by winning a battle in my HOME.

²⁵ That night the Lord said to Gideon, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one that is seven years old. Pull down your father's altar to Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole standing beside it. ²⁶ Then build an altar to the Lord your God here on this hilltop sanctuary, laying the stones carefully. Sacrifice the bull as a burnt offering on the altar, using as fuel the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down." (Judges 6:25-27 NLT)

²⁷ So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord had commanded. But he did it at night because he was afraid of the other members of his father's household and the people of the town. (Judges 6:25-27 NLT)

- 11) Why did Gideon do what God commanded at night? What was he afraid of?
- 12) Has obedience to God ever been scary for you regarding your home and family; if so how?
- 13) What can you do to "reset" and "fear less" in your home?

The third place we need to "fear less" is in our community. This does not mean the city you live in but the people sitting in your Life Group with you. These are our friends, hopefully. It also means other places you are intimately connected with, for example, the family and people you allow to influence you.

Fight Fear by winning a battle in my COMMUNITY.

- 14) Have you ever been afraid of sharing honestly in your Life Group? If so, how did it impact your connection in the group?
- 15) What can you do to "reset" and "fear less" in your community?

The last and final place we need to win the battle is in the crowd—this means the world. Gideon listened to God and encouraged those around him to imitate his actions of obedience.

Fight Fear by winning a battle in the CROWD.

¹⁷ Then he said to them, "Keep your eyes on me. When I come to the edge of the camp, do just as I do. ¹⁸ As soon as I and those with me blow the rams' horns, blow your horns, too, all around the entire camp, and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon!'" (Judges 7:17-18 NLT)

- 16) Gideon listened to God and encouraged those around him to imitate his actions of obedience. What did he tell them to do?
- 17) In what ways do you need to "reset" and imitate Jesus regarding the world?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

This week read Judges Chapter 6 and answer the following questions.

- 1) One of the things Pastor Craig said this week is, "We don't know everything that God wants for us to do, but we know a few things." What are your "few things"?
- 2) Gideon was hiding in the winepress because he was afraid of losing the little he had. Is there an area in your life where you are letting your fear make decisions for you?
- 3) Gideon had to win the battle in his head and set himself up for success. What can you do to set yourself up for success in whatever area you discovered in the previous question?
- 4) God asked Gideon to tear down the idol in his life (the altar to Baal and the Ashtaroth pole). Is there some kind of altar in your life that you need to tear down?
"Reset: A New Year Won't Change Your Life, New Decisions Will"

FEAR LESS
PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY
January 19, 2020

Thread: Fear Less; the real battle is found in my _____.

The battle for obedience:

● **Starts in my** _____
"Then the angel of the Lord came and sat...¹² The angel of the Lord appeared to him (Gideon) and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!" ¹³ "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."¹⁴ Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"¹⁵ "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!""
(Judges 6:11–15 NLT)

Fear stops me from seeing _____
Jesus: "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Fear stops me from seeing _____

Fear stops me from seeing _____
"Go with the strength you have... I am sending you!"

"I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2 NLT)

"If you love me, obey my commandments." (John 14:15 NLT)

See Action Steps

● **Then my** _____
"That night the Lord said to Gideon, "Pull down your father's altar to Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole standing beside it. ²⁶ Then build an altar to the Lord your God here on this hilltop sanctuary, laying the stones carefully...²⁷ So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord had commanded. But he did it at night because he was afraid of the other members of his father's household and the people of the town."
(Judges 6:25–27 NLT)

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