

Growth Group Leader's Guide

For the Week of May 16-22, 2010
"The Gideon"

Announcements:

- If you have some group members who have missed some meetings, it would be good to contact them and let them know they were missed.
- It's not too early to begin discussing a service project and/or a group social for the end of the Spring Quarter. If you need ideas, please contact Pastor Larry.
- Please email your attendance and a brief summary of your meeting each week to pastorlarry@ccsalem.org.

Homework:

Before your Growth Group meets, take about 20 minutes on your own to complete the following...

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

What do you consider to be your greatest strength? Your greatest weakness? How has God used your weakness to demonstrate His power in your life?

Growth Group Discussion Questions:

The following questions are to be discussed when your Growth Group meets this week.

My Story: Share about a time when you experienced God's strength through your weakness.

Digging Deeper: Read Judges 6:11-16.

1. What promises did God make to Gideon? What do Gideon's questions reveal about his reasons for not trusting in God?

(God promises His presence - "I am with you", His authority - "I am sending you", and victory - "You will strike down the Midianites")

2. In what way was Gideon just an average guy with common fears and weaknesses?

(He had questions and doubts about the Lord's presence - v.13. He had doubts about his own abilities and importance - v.15. He needed assurance - v. 17ff.)

3. In what ways can you relate to Gideon?

Living It:

1. What circumstances in your life make it difficult for you to trust God?

(Point out the fact that Gideon and the Israelites were in very difficult circumstances - see verse 6)

2. What battle are you facing today that gives you cause for concern?

(You might want to discuss the fact that the battle that God brought Gideon and the Israelites to was one in which the odds were stacked against them, yet God came through with victory)

3. Where are you uncertain, cautious, or afraid of God's will or calling for your life?

(Make the connection between Gideon's self-doubt and God's statement that he was a "mighty man of valor.")

4. What promises from God's Word are you going to hold on to in order to overcome your fear, worry, or uncertainty?