



Sermon Discussion Guide

Gideon and the True Identity of God's People - Christian Lindbeck

October 24, 2021

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- Judges is a book that challenges us in different ways. These few weeks in, how are you feeling with the challenge of this Judges series?
- We have now heard messages on Othniel, Deborah, and now Gideon. Which story resonates with you most so far? Why?

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- **Read Judges 6:1 through 8:3 (this week)**
- Diagram the typical Judges cycle with Gideon up to now. I.e. the people turn away from God... etc. Compare this story with those of Othniel and Deborah.
- Pastor Christian encouraged us to ask the question, how does this happen? How do God's chosen people fall so far and convince themselves of a false reality? List ways from this passage that point to WHY this happened? (i.e. Gideon's statement that God hadn't done anything for them since the Exodus...)
- Brainstorm other Biblical persons where it took more than one event to convince them of God's power. (Jonah, Barak, Thomas)
- What are all the moments that Gideon has to choose courage and trust?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- What are "the acts of rescue" that God wants the church to remember today?



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- In what ways do you think Christians ask for proof of his power instead of trusting?
- We will get to questions about our own individual identity (i.e. Angel of the Lord calling Gideon "Mighty warrior", but for now, list the names/identities of the community of believers (i.e. beloved, bride of Christ). How can we live into this truth?
- What else can we learn from both the story of Gideon and the actions of the people of Israel in this story?
- What alarms should go off in our minds regarding the church in the world (i.e. how we treat others, how we talk about ourselves)?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- Looking back in your own life at God's faithfulness, in what ways has God shown his patient faithfulness to you. If you feel comfortable, share these stories.
- What are some of the names you have sensed God giving you over the years? (If you have someone in your group who doesn't yet believe, you may want to talk about how we even sense a new identity God is giving us. Hint: Its usually through Scripture :)) He calls Gideon warrior even though he was hiding. What changes if you view yourself the way God does?
- Gideon and the people of Israel were living under the false identity that comes from worshipping false gods and following errant ways. When the Angel of the Lord comes to Gideon he calls Gideon and soon the people of God into their true identity. In what ways does God call you? What identity is God calling you to live into this week?

Time of Prayer