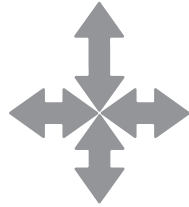




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of April 22th

This study is designed to help your community group grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. There are three dimensions to following Jesus.



UP: growing in relationship with God

IN: growing in relationship with other followers of Jesus

OUT: growing in relationship with the world around us as we join God in God's mission

Get Started:

How is weakness generally perceived in our society? How would you react to a leader who admits that he/she is weak?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Judges 6:11-18. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful. Read it one more time together. Pray for your study of God's Word.

1. What do you notice about our passage? What questions do you have after reading the passage?
2. Where is Gideon when the angel of the Lord appears to him? Why is this significant?
3. What do you discover in verse 13 about Gideon's relationship with God at that point? Discuss how you have experienced similar conversations with God and what brought about those conversations in your life.
4. In your own words, how does God respond to Gideon in verse 14? How do you see God's gentle understanding of Gideon's condition?
5. In verse 16, God promises to be with Gideon in the enormous task that lies ahead. Share a time that you felt "in over your head." How did God meet you in that? How has God's "with-ness" been a reality in your life?

Going Deeper: What word, phrase or thought from today's passage or from our time together is God lifting up as significant for you? How does it speak to a current situation in your life? How is God inviting you to respond?



Out: : Connect with the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)

As you think about what God is doing in you and around you, what encouragement do you find from Gideon's story?

Look around you this week for a person who seems to be "in over her/his head" in a particular task. Pray for and encourage that person.



IN: Connect with Each Other

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. Is there an area in your life right now where you are tempted to fall back on your own strength instead of trusting God and His power? Share with your group.

Spend some time praying for each other. Pray that you will rest in the sufficiency of Christ.