

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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## PRAY TOGETHER

Lord Father God, we invite you to speak clearly as we open your Word and reflect on Gideon's story. Help us see where "all this" in our lives is crowding out your voice, and expose the excuses or limitations we've been putting on how you can use us. Remind us of our true identity in Christ—greatly loved, chosen, and empowered—and not the labels we put on ourselves. Give us courage today not just to talk, but to say yes to a specific next step of obedience you put before us. In Jesus' name, Amen!

## ICE BREAKER

If you had to participate in one famous sporting event instead of just watching it, what would you choose - and what would your internal monologue sound like halfway through?

## SERMON OVERVIEW



[SCAN FOR  
SERMON CLIP](#)



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This week we are joined by Pastor Todd Holzworth from our Westfield campus who confronts the self-imposed limitations we place on God's ability to work through us. In Gideon's story, we discover that God specializes in using ordinary, flawed people to accomplish extraordinary things. Gideon was hiding in a winepress, threshing wheat in fear of the Midianites, when God appeared and called him a mighty warrior. The irony is striking: God sees potential in us that we cannot see in ourselves. The message identifies three common limitations we place on God's calling: being overwhelmed by 'all this' in our busy lives, believing we're 'not good enough' compared to others, and choosing comfort over obedience. Gideon tried all three excuses, yet God remained persistent. What makes this story so compelling is how God ultimately used just 300 men with trumpets and empty jars to defeat an entire army, proving that victory comes through His power, not our strength. The central challenge is clear: we're not called to be spectators in our faith but active participants in God's work, trusting that He will be with us, always!

## READ SCRIPTURE

### JUDGES 6 & 7

## CONNECT RELATIONALLY

- 1) Pastor Todd emphasized that the people in Scripture are real people, not superheroes, and that God is the true hero of the Bible. Share about a time when God used an ordinary person in a way that deeply impacted you.
- 2) Gideon couldn't see God clearly because "all this" had his full attention. What kinds of distractions, pressures, disappointments, or unanswered questions tend to dominate your focus and crowd out spiritual awareness?
- 3) Why do you think God often calls people based on who they can become rather than who they currently believe they are? When have you experienced insecurity, comparison, or self-doubt affecting your willingness to step into something God may have been calling you toward?

**GROW  
SPIRITUALLY**

4) Pastor Todd describes both his broken hand story and his anxiety about preaching as moments where God still chose to use him, leading to growth and “stretching.” How do you feel about the idea that God may move you out of your comfort zone to grow you, and what fears or hopes does that stir up in you?

5) Which of these truths (e.g., “greatly loved,” “child of God,” “God’s masterpiece,” “Christ’s ambassador”) is hardest for you to believe, and how might embracing it change your confidence in saying “yes” to God?

6) What is the difference between seeking genuine discernment from God versus using discernment as an excuse to avoid uncomfortable obedience?

**LIVE  
GENEROUSLY**

7) Pastor Todd talked about how “all this” (busyness, responsibilities, demands) can blind us to God’s presence and calling. What is your “all this” right now? How might it be preventing you from seeing or responding to God’s invitation?

8) If you said yes to what God is currently calling you to do, what story might you be telling others that begins with ‘You’re never gonna believe what God just did’?

9) We are urged to move from being “spectators” to “getting in the game,” including practical steps like using the Serve Finder on the church app and taking a “test drive” in serving. What is one concrete serving step you could take in your church, home, or community, and what will you do in the next seven days to act on it?

**TAKE  
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how is the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please answer this statement:

I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

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Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

**PRAY  
TOGETHER**

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute them to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

**ENGAGE  
TOGETHER**

**Ascent 121** - One of our local mission partners, Ascent 121, is actively working to combat human trafficking in central Indiana. They offered one of their staff or volunteers to come to your life group to lead an exercise designed to help you all learn more and better understand the life of someone who has been impacted. Learn More - <https://ascent121.org/raise-awareness/>