

## Small Group Bible Study Questions

- A) When God finds Gideon in Judges 6:11, he is hiding from his enemies and conjectures that God has left His people (Israel). Later in the story, the people want their mighty warrior, Gideon, to be their leader (Judges 8:22). Gideon turns them down in Judges 8:23, saying “the LORD shall rule over you.” What changed in Gideon to bring him to this point?
- B) Think of the battles and circumstances in your own life. Where are you on the “Gideon Timeline”? Are you still hiding, or is your life the example which others are following? What needs to happen in your life to take you one step further in trusting God with your whole heart for the battle?
- C) Gideon would stop in the middle of his journey to worship God and pray to him, even setting up an altar at one point (Yahweh Shalom -- The LORD is Peace) in Judges 6:24. In Judges 7:15, Gideon bowed and worshipped God before even leaving the area of the enemy camp. When God shows up in your life, in small or big ways, how can you respond with prayer and worship to Him?
- D) We concentrated on some of the big moments in Long Beach Alliance Church’s summer schedule to point out that there are things which only God can do this summer, and that He wants the hearts of His people to accomplish great things. Can you and your group “sponsor” at least two or three of these upcoming “moments” in our church to earnestly pray and worship, appealing for God to win the victory, despite our being outnumbered and overwhelmed? Also, take some time to pray specifically for the items which arose from ‘B’ above, those battles in your own life where God wants your heart, where God wants to win the battle for His glory in your life!

# The Heart Of The Mission

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**WHEN GIDEON SAW THAT HE WAS  
THE ANGEL OF THE LORD, HE  
SAID, “ALAS, O LORD GOD! FOR  
NOW I HAVE SEEN THE ANGEL OF  
THE LORD FACE TO FACE.” THE  
LORD SAID TO HIM, “PEACE  
TO YOU, DO NOT FEAR;  
YOU SHALL NOT DIE.”**

**~JUDGES 6:22-23 (NASB)**

### **1) Preparation Of An Unqualified Leader**

- A) Gideon was a great leader of God’s chosen people, Israel, during the era of the judges around the 11<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. His story as a Judge in Israel is recounted in Judges 6-8, and he is mentioned (kind of) in the ‘Hall of Faith’ in Hebrews 11:32.
- B) We find Gideon hiding from the enemies of Israel (the Midianites, who are, not surprisingly, from Midian) when God visits Gideon and compliments/goads him for being a “valiant warrior” (Judges 6:11-18).

- C) Gideon, wanting proof that it is truly God who is giving him the message, asks God to show him "a sign." God shows Gideon the desired sign, and asks Gideon to be faithful by "calling out" the traitors within Israel (Judges 6:19-35).

## 2) The Wimpy Warrior Grows Stronger

- A) Gideon, happy to be alive and filled with the Spirit of God (6:34), asks God to show him two more signs to assure himself that the impending war he has instigated is truly for Israel's deliverance (6:36-40).
- B) Gideon, assured that God is in control of the situation after the fleece signs, gathers near En Harod with several thousand men from the tribes of Israel (32,000 men) to do battle against the Midianites and Amalekites (7:1).
- C) God, though, has other plans for the 32,000 "warriors" of Israel. He tells Gideon to immediately get rid of anyone who is full of "fear and trembling" at the idea of fighting (7:2-3). Almost 70% of Gideon's army leaves!

## 3) Gideon, Mighty Warrior & Judge

- A) God is still not satisfied with the size of Gideon's army, and tells Gideon he is going to thin out the ranks even more by hand-picking Gideon's army (7:4-5).
- B) Gideon's army is now only 300 men large, less than 1% of the original company of soldiers (7:6-8).

- C) God shows fearful Gideon one last sign (7:9-15), and then Gideon leads his paltry army of 300 to a stunning victory over the enemies of God (7:16-25).

## 4) The Example Of Gideon For Our World

- A) God has given us several important "battles" to fight in the weeks ahead. At first glance, they may not seem like much, but when inspected more closely, these are the moments where lives and eternity can be changed.
- Los Angeles Angels Of Anaheim vs. Detroit Tigers of Detroit
  - Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS) & Friday Event (7:00 PM)
  - Summer Schedule (10:45 AM) Beginning July 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Summer Sunday Carnival (July 17<sup>th</sup>)
  - Summer Sundays @ Wardlow Park (July 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup>)
  - Summer Sundays @ Bolsa Chica St. Beach (August 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>)
  - Women's Tuesday AM & PM Study on Igniting Prayer
  - Men's Weekly Study on The Pursuit Of God
- B) At each moment along Gideon's journey from hiding in the wine press from his enemies (Judges 6:11) to when Gideon led a victorious army against the enemies of God's people (Judges 7-8), he would stop to worship and pray to God.
- C) The issue for Gideon (and for us) is whether our heart belongs to God. God does not need us for His battles, but chooses to use us to transform our hearts -- and the hearts of others. Does God have your heart? God wants your heart!

