



Made for Relationship

1. Read Judges 6:11-16. Why did Gideon doubt that the Lord was with the Israelites? Have you ever questioned the promise that “God is with you” because of the circumstances going on in your life? What were they? At the time of Gideon, God had allowed the Israelites to put into subjection to the Midianites because they had started worshipping other Gods, so how should that have factored into Gideon’s thinking? Why did he doubt that God could use him to deliver Israel from the Midianites? Have you ever felt this way? Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. Who does God use the most often? Why?
2. Pastor Rick taught that there are four reasons God prefers to use common people the most, what are they? How does this teaching affect your thinking?
3. Pastor Rick taught three truths about who I am, what were they and what do you think each one means? Which one stands out to you?
4. Read Judges 7:1-6. What did God tell Gideon to do and what reason did he give Gideon for why he wanted it done? How would you have felt if you had been Gideon, knowing that the Midianites had up to 100,000 soldiers? Now read verses 7-21. What amazing battle plan did Gideon come up with to fight the Midianites? What do you think his 300 men would have thought about this plan? What happened? Having read this story, what problem in your life are you thinking is insurmountable?
5. If you were guaranteed that you could not fail, what would you attempt to accomplish for God in your life? What obstacle is keeping you from trying? What could be your first step to begin?

1. *He doubted God was with Israel because it seemed to him that God had abandoned them by allowing the Midianites to put them into bondage, even though this has happened before with other nations whenever Israel was disobedient to God. This should have made Gideon realize that God was allowing them to suffer because of their disobedience to him, it was not a sign that he was not with them anymore. Gideon doubted that he could be used by God because he was a nobody, the least person in a family that was the least in its tribe and he had never done anything before that would suggest he was a great leader. In 1 Corinthians it says God uses nobodies more than somebodies because the nobodies give him the credit for what they do whereas the somebodies tend to take the credit themselves.*
2. *The reasons are: a. They are chosen to display his awesome power, b. They cultivate dependence on Him, c. It creates encouragement for others, and d. It confirms our identity in Christ. This should make us realize that God can and will use anyone who is willing to allow him to and has the faith to trust him to supply what they will need to accomplish what he wants them to do.*
3. *The three things are: a. I am loved before I perform which is the exact opposite of how people treat us, they love us because of what we do. God's love is unconditional not based on performance; b. I am chosen even when I feel overlooked which means that God sees you as valuable and essential to him even when people might overlook you because they do not think you have value; and c. I am secure because of God's affirmation—not the approval of others which means that you never have to fear that God will reject you, even when you think you have not lived up to what you should be or when others tell you that you are unworthy and useless.*
4. *God told Gideon that he had too many people to fight against the Midianites and that he needed to reduce the number of men he had. He told him this because he wanted there to be absolutely no doubt as to who was responsible for the coming victory. I am sure that Gideon was in disbelief and thought that they needed far more soldiers than they had. The battle plan was to raise up torches and to shout "For Gideon and the Lord" as the way to defeat 100,000 Midianites. I am sure his soldiers did not see him as a master strategist and questioned how this was going to defeat the Midianite warriors. The result was that God caused confusion in the Midianite army so that they began to kill each other and they fled thinking that they were being attacked by a massive army. There was no doubt that God caused the victory to happen because of the size of Gideon's army and the method they used to fight. This story is much like the story of Joshua and Jericho.*
5. *Try to encourage your people to start to dream big about what God could do through them.*