

05 MAY
SUNDAY
2019



SPRING SMALL GROUPS

Bethel Group

Sundays 4:30 p.m.

Contact: David Minard
517.756.8000

Coldwater Group

Mondays 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Scott Carpenter
517.617.5438

Tijuana Fellowship Group

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Paul Alger
517.677.0444

East Gilead Group

Thursdays 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Greg Maertin
419.345.4022

Bronson Group

Thursdays 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Jim Wickey

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Contact: Jim Wickey
517.369.6229

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Extend the KINGDOM

Small Group Discussion Guide

Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. Ask God to use your study to encourage your faith.

- I. Today we want to turn our attention to the topic of despair. What exactly is despair, and when do people tend to get to “the point of despair”? Have you ever despaired of life? What happened?
- II. Go to the Old Testament book of Judges. In this book, we see ancient Israel reach a point of despair again and again. There’s a pattern that occurs here, each time ending in God rescuing them from impending disaster. We’ll look at one example today. Read [Judges 6:1-6](#). First, what did Israel do to bring about this crisis? Describe their crisis with the Midianites. In what sense is God their last resort (verse 6)? How is this often true for people today?
- III. Read [Judges 6:7-10](#). God explains the root problem here. What is it? How was idolatry a major stumbling block for Israel? Is it still a temptation for God’s people today? Any examples?
- IV. God begins to remedy their situation by sending a “savior” (someone to help change the situation). Read [Judges 6:11-16](#). What can you observe about Gideon? Why was he an unlikely hero? Does God commonly use normal, unassuming people to do his bidding? Any other examples from scripture?
- V. Now read [Judges 6:17-24](#). How does God prove his message to Gideon? Note also [Judges 6:36-40](#). Has God proved his message to us in any way? Have you ever “laid out a fleece”? What happened?
- VI. Finally, read [Judges 7:1-8, 20-22](#). God brings about a major victory. How does he do it? What lessons do you think Gideon and the Israelites learned from this experience? What lessons can we learn today whenever we are tempted to despair?

Close your group by reading [Romans 15:4](#). Ask God to strengthen your sense of hope in him as a result of your study of his word today.

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