



PORTRAITS of FAITH

Community Group Discussion Guide

March 13, 2016

Week 2 | Testing Faith
Gideon | Joshua 6 and 7

Introduction: We're in week two of a 3 week series we've titled Portraits of Faith. This short series tracks with the 365 reading in scripture. It looks at three individuals in three books. Joshua from the book of Joshua. Gideon from the book of Judges. Ruth from the book of Ruth.

Questions for Study

1. Describe a time in your life when you were asked to do something you felt completely insufficient to do. How did things turn out? What did you learn?
2. Have you ever had a time in your life when God came through in a big way, in a situation when you felt powerless? Explain.
3. Read Judges 6:1-16, and then answer the following questions.
 - What is God asking Gideon to do in this passage?
 - From your observations of this passage, list all the reasons you can see for why Gideon would feel insufficient to accomplish this assignment.

Questions For Study (Cont'd)

4. Read Judges 7:1-8. Explain how what's happening will force Gideon and the Israelites to trust in God's power, and not their own.
5. Read Judges 7:9-25. How is the power of God manifest in this passage?
6. Why is trusting in God's power and not our own an important lesson to learn?
7. When we see God's power working in our weakness and insufficiency, we can respond in one of two ways. We can take the credit for what happened and become arrogant and proud. Or we can humbly respond with increased faith and gratitude to God.
 - In what ways can it be easy to respond by taking the credit, when we see God's power working in our weakness and insufficiency?
 - How should seeing God's power at work in our weakness lead to increased faith and gratitude? How do we apply this in a practical way?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. Why do you think God's power is "made perfect in weakness"?
9. How can your own insufficiencies drive you to depend more on God? What should this look like for you, in practical terms?
10. Challenge: This week, commit to memorizing 2 Corinthians 12:9: But the Lord said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ's power may rest on me.