

Sermon Based Discussion Guide

Date 2/26/23 Steve Prokopchak

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGES

Judges 6:1-16

¹The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. ²Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. ³Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. ⁴They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. ⁵They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. ⁶Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.

⁷When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, ⁸he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ⁹I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."

¹¹The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹²When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

¹³"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."

¹⁴The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

¹⁵"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

¹⁶The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."

Other Scripture: Jeremiah 1:5, Ephesians 1:4, Romans 8:16, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 John 5:3-4, Acts 17:24-26, Colossians 1:21-22.

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

Dive into God's Word. Use these discussion questions. Learn from each other's insight.

1. What areas of your life have you focused on for security?
2. How can negative identity attachments become a source of identity in our lives?
3. Have I ever struggled with, "I am what I do" or "I am what I have" beliefs? Why or why not?
4. Can you identify any "empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers?" (See I Peter 1:18.)
5. How would you answer the three questions discussed in the message?
 - A. Why do I exist?
 - B. How does God see me?
 - C. Who am I?
6. Of the four revelations of identity, which one or ones do you know you possess as a revelation in your life and which one or ones is your heavenly Father still working on in your life?

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS