

REKINDLE

Week 1

September 12-17, 2022

Daily Prayer:

Loving God, you are the Lord of Peace. You come to me and meet me just as I am.. No matter where I am, you find me. Open my heart and mind to your presence this week. Teach me your ways and awaken me to renewed faithfulness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Monday: Read Judges 6:1-10

These verses set the scene for Gideon's story. We find the Israelites oppressed by Midianites who destroyed crops and livestock. The Israelites endured this for seven years. Why are they in this situation? (Judges 6:1). Where did the Israelites go to seek refuge? (6:2). What actions were the Midianites taking against the Israelites? (6:3-5). To whom did Israelites go for help? (6:6). Who responded and by what means? (6:7-10). List the actions God had taken on their behalf. (6:8-9). What else had God told them? (6:10). What had been the Israelites response to God? (6:10). Why was it important to be reminded of what God had done for the Israelites? Why do they need to hear about their own behavior? What do these verses tell you about God—God's expectations, heart for God's people, and God's presence? Where do you go to get away from it all? Have you ever cried out to God for help? Has that help come in unexpected ways? Have you been able to identify God's present help? Write down one main point that stands out to you in this passage.

Tuesday: Read Judges 6:11-24

Who was Gideon and where did the angel find him? How did the angel greet Gideon? (Judges 6:11-12). What is Gideon's response? (6:13). What task does the Lord have for Gideon? And what is Gideon's objection? (6:14-15). Why was Gideon equipped for the job? (6:16). What is the Lord's response to Gideon preparing an offering? (6:18). What did the angel tell Gideon to do with the offering? (6:19-20). What caused Gideon to realize he was in the presence of the angel of God? What was Gideon's reaction? (6:21-22). Note the assurance the Lord gave to Gideon (6:23) and what Gideon did in response (6:24). Why do we sometimes object to God's plans? Lack of faith in ourselves? In God? In others? Who or what reassures you? List 2 or 3 main points you learn about God in these verses.

Wednesday: Read Judges 6: 25-35

What did the Lord instruct Gideon to do? (Judges 6:25-26). What did Gideon do and when? Why did he choose that timing? (6:27). What happened when people discovered the demolished altar? (6:28-30). What was Joash's reply? And who was Joash? (6:31). What new name did they give Gideon and why? (6:32). What was happening in the Valley of Jezreel? (6:33). How do we know God was with Gideon? (6:34) What did God enable Gideon to do? (6:34-35). What do we learn about Gideon's level of courage? (6:27, 30). What do these verses teach about God and how God moves in our lives? What do they illustrate about people God chooses to use?

Thursday: Read Judges 6:36-40

Read through these verses as the interaction unfolds between Gideon and God. What is Gideon needing? Why did he vacillate between certainty and doubt? (vv. 6: 22, 24, 27a; and vv. 6:13, 15, 17, 27b, 36, 39) Have you ever gained courage, yet still been afraid? What do you fear? (harm, opinions, change, unknowns, other?) Are you overcautious about a call God has on your life right now? What is the root of your hesitation? What bold step might God be asking you to take to serve God? What do you learn about God as God works with Gideon in these verses? Note Gideon's vulnerabilities here. What elements of God's character are revealed in these verses? What does that tell you about God's work with you?

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Friday: Read Judges 7:1-21

Why did God reduce the size of Gideon's army? (Judges 7:2). What steps were taken to determine the reduction of forces? Do they make sense? (7:3-8). What was God trying to teach Gideon? Why did God tell Gideon he could go to the enemy camp before battle? (7:9-11). How might they have felt at first sight of the camp? (7:12). But then what happened? (7:13-14). How did that conversation impact Gideon? What did he do first? (7:15-16). What were Gideon's careful instructions to his men? (7:17-18). What was the strategy and was it effective? Why? (7:19-21). Have you ever experienced a "winnowing" of resources? How did that feel? What did it take to reassure you? Did you see God at work? Were you able to praise God in the midst of it? How can we have strength in weakness? What might God be teaching the church in these post-pandemic days?

Saturday: Reflect

Recall this week's readings and what you learned about God. Recall what you learned about God's people. What does this teach you about your relationship with God?

Write a prayer using the main points you learned from each day's readings.

Spiritual Practice: PRAYER

Here are few approaches to prayer for you to try. Try one or more, or let us know a form of prayer that has blessed you.

- Read the Lord's Prayer as Jesus taught his disciples, Matthew 6:9-13
- Pray aloud the words in Psalm 139:1-18
- Participate in the Prayer Art Walk, open Wednesday, September 14, 5:30-6:30pm at Campbell. [It will remain available throughout this Rekindle series. Hours vary]