

# Discussion Guide

questions to help start or continue conversations about faith

*Discussion Guides accompany the weekly message.*

*"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:4-5)*

BECOME like Jesus. Jesus makes us new through the power of His Holy Spirit to help us BECOME like Him. Belief in Jesus leads His followers to continually turn from sin and pursue Christ-like living.

*"When you see someone putting on his Big Boots, you can be pretty sure that an Adventure is going to happen." —Winnie the Pooh*

What is the greatest or most favorite adventure you have been on?

## **The Great Adventure**

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes, after exploring everything that life under the sun has to offer, said this, "...the end of the matter is this: revere and worship God, knowing that He is. Keep His commandments, for this is the whole purpose of every person and in this, every person is made whole." There are many ways we revere and worship God. We attend church services, go to small group, sing songs of worship, pray, read His Word, and meditate in stillness, just to name a few. But the greatest, the highest way we can revere and worship God is to become like Jesus, His One and only Son. This is God's purpose for every life on this planet, and it is the greatest adventure you will ever go on. It is why we long and desire to connect every life to Jesus. Any other life is less than God's best.

Judges 6-8 records for us a portion of Gideon's adventure. When you read about Gideon, you will see he was a fearful, doubting, and imperfect man who God worked through in a very powerful way. When the angel of the LORD came to Gideon, He said to him, "Mighty Warrior." And Gideon responded, "Who me? No not me, I am the least of the least." But God

looked at Gideon and saw all that Gideon could be in and through God's power and strength. Gideon restricted his own view to his lowly circumstances and his lowly position. And still, we read this amazing truth, "the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon with Himself..." (Judges 6:34 AMPC). God Himself gave Gideon, who in his own words was the smallest and the least, the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the impossible. Gideon and 300 men went to war and defeated an army of more than 120,000 in battle.

**Believe and Receive:** Last week we talked about belonging to Jesus. Do you belong to Jesus? If you cannot confidently say, "YES!" today is your day of salvation. "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved." (Romans 10:9-10)

**Observation (obs) - look at the text**

**Interpretation (int) - Understand what it means**

**Application (app) - Apply the Word of God to life**

**You are God's prized possession**

*Read Deuteronomy 7:6; 1 Peter 2:9; Zephaniah 3:17; Judges 6:11-16*

- When God looks at us, those He has saved and redeemed, who belong to Jesus, what does He see?
- Who are we to God? What does He promise to do in and through us?
- When you look at yourself, do you see what God sees? Or do you respond like Gideon? Why?
- How does God want you to respond?

**Become like Jesus - the old self and the new self**

*Read Colossians 2:20-23 & 3:1-17*

According to Colossians 3:1-4...

- God has raised you to new life in Christ.
- Your real life is hidden in Christ.
- Christ is your life.

So, becoming like Christ is not a matter of doing or trying. It is being. In His power, we become like Christ by being like Christ. No level of human effort will ever be enough to

overcome the old self. Human effort alone only results in behavior modification. Rather than modifying our behaviors, Christ has raised us to new life that is already like Jesus. The work of Christ to pay our debt of sin was complete on the cross. And our victory in Christ is complete in His resurrection. God has raised you to new life in Christ. The old is gone, the new has come.

- What must we do to become like Jesus? (See verses 9 & 10)
- What rules of this world and things of the earth does the old self struggle against?
- What is God's plan and promise for us to be victorious and set free?
- What do the clothes of the new self in Christ look like?
- The adventure to become like Jesus begins with a decision to belong to Jesus. It continues with a decision to be in Jesus. Is the decision to be in Jesus a one-time decision? Why or why not?
- How does the knowledge that you are God's prized possession help and encourage you in the journey and on life's adventure to become like Jesus?
- How do your daily choices influence your life's adventure to become like Jesus?
- **Personal Reflection:** Verse 11 says, Christ lives in you. If you belong to Jesus but you are not experiencing the power of Christ in your life, take some time with the LORD and ask Him to search you and know and reveal any offensive way in you. (Psalm 139:23-24) If there is any offensive way, read 1 John 1:9. Confess your sins to the LORD for He is faithful and just to forgive you and restore you.