



GROUP DISCUSSION

- ❑ **CONFIDENTIALITY** | What's said in the group stays in the group.
- ❑ **NO CROSS-TALK** | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.
- ❑ **NO FIXING** | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.
- ❑ **SHARING** | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.



INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

THE UNDERDOG

Who doesn't love a good underdog story? There's something truly inspiring about someone overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds on the way to triumph. This week your group will discuss the final chapter in our unlikely hero's story. On the surface, Gideon and Israel's army look like the underdog. However, as you look closely, you will see that they were the ones who actually had the upper hand in the battle.

Q: *What's your favorite underdog story? What makes it your favorite?*



DEEPER DIVE

Select 2–3 questions to discuss as a group.

UNLIKELY MEANS

Everything in Gideon’s story has been leading up to a final confrontation with Israel’s biggest enemy at the time. The author sets the scene for us. On one side of the Jordan, the Midianites and their allies are encamped. On the other side there are Gideon and men from Israel’s northern tribes. As both sides prepare for battle, God tells Gideon, “You’ve got too many men.” Let’s look at what happens next and the fact that God will use unlikely means to achieve His purposes.

Q: Have a volunteer read Judges 7:1-25. Next, share about a time when you had to totally depend on God in a situation.

Q: What’s something you need to give God glory for? Take time as a group to do this.



REFLECTION AND NEXT STEPS

Select 2–3 questions from this section to answer.

FRAME AND CHOOSE

The true advantage Gideon and his troops had in the battle wasn’t the size of their army, their intelligence or their creativity. It was God. They truly had the upper hand in the battle because they had the most powerful person in the universe fighting for them!

Maybe you feel like the underdog in your own story. You’re facing a difficulty, setback, failure, tragedy, or problem you can’t seem to fix. Life is hard but even at life’s worst, we are never the underdogs when we put our trust in God. The next time you feel like an underdog, you need to do two essential things:

- *Frame your situation.* Make sure you’re looking at life through the right frame. Seeing your life through God’s frame enables you to see how God works all things for the good of His children and for His glory.

- *Choose your thoughts.* You can only think one thought at a time, so choose the positive thought over the negative thought every time. Ask yourself, *How is this drawing me closer to Him and His heart? How am I growing because of this? What good can come from this?*

Q: *How could framing your life with God's frame build more trust in Him?*

Q: *What are some practical things you can do to choose to focus your thoughts on positive rather than negative things?*



PRAY

Give glory to God that He is in control over this world and your life. Ask for eyes to see your circumstances through His frame. Ask for a mind focused on things that are positive, pure, and productive rather than on things that are negative, impure, and not useful. Finish with a declaration that God is worthy of your trust in all areas of your life.

ENDNOTES:

1. Dave Patty, *No Other Gods (Frydlant nad Ostravici, Czech Republic: Josiah Venture Ministries, 2019)*, 115.