

Growth Teams

Week Beginning
Sunday 18th June 2017

Growth Team News

If you are free at any of the times for Growth Teams below, then why not give one a try? They are a great opportunity to build real friendships with other Christians and to grow deeper in your faith with God.

We are looking to start new teams in the autumn, so if you cannot make any of the times below, but would like to be a part of a team, then please see Paul, the vicar and we'll try to make sure a new one is set up that you can make.

Going deeper

This incident is recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke and is one of the most shocking responses of Jesus to anyone's requests. It certainly leaves the disciples astonished. We need to remember that Jesus doesn't tell everyone to do what he tells this man to do, but we must understand why he told this man!

Read Matthew 19:16-30

5. What is impressive about the man coming up to Jesus? How would we respond to him coming into our Church?
6. Who is the 'One who is good'? Which of the key commandments does Jesus miss out in verses 18-19?
7. What is it about this young man that makes it necessary for him to 'sell his possessions' to be right with God? How does this link with the story of Gideon?
8. Why are the disciples 'greatly astonished'?
9. What would the young man have gained if he had done what Jesus had said? What did Gideon gain by destroying the altar to Baal? What does God promise us if we are willing to give up things for him?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

God's Surprising Answer to Prayer

Judges 6-7 (pages 248-250)

Space to take notes on the talk

How does God answer prayer?

❖ You _____

❖ _____

❖ You _____

Starter question

❖ How has God answered your prayers recently?

Responding to the talk

1. A child asks you: 'What did you learn at church today?' How would you answer?
2. Read Judges 6:1-10
 - a. Why did the Israelites cry out to God for help?
 - b. What was God's initial answer?
 - c. How does the rest of the Gideon story underline the importance of dealing with this issue? (cf. 6:25ff)
3. Read Judges 6:36-40
 - a. What is Gideon keen for God to confirm? (cf. 6:17; 7:10)
 - b. What is miraculous about what God does? (cf. 6:21; 7:13)
 - c. When is it not right to test God? (cf. Mark 8:11-13)
4. Read Judges 7:2-22
 - a. Why does God think there are too many men in Gideon's army? (7:2)
 - b. How do you think Gideon would have felt to see his army reduced so drastically?
 - c. In what ways does the story emphasise that the victory was down to God, not Gideon or his army?

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

10. What kinds of things act as 'Baals' and 'Asherah poles' in our lives today? How might we 'chop them down' or 'burn them'?
11. What kind of things might make us say, 'I can't do that!?' What kind of things might make us say, 'Look I did that!?' How do we guard against both lack of self-confidence and pride?