



## Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide Warrior – Part 3 LEADER GUIDE

---

**LEADERS:** *Be the best leader you can be for your family, for your world and for your small group!*

- *We cannot give others what we do not have ourselves.*
- *If we want others to experience life in Christ, we must be active participants in that as well.*
- *We will have tough seasons, but we should set the example of pursuing Jesus in our daily lives.*

*As Jesus said in John 15:5. "I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me."*

**Stay connected to Him, and you WILL bear MUCH FRUIT!**

---

### ICE BREAKER:

- What do you consider one of your greatest weaknesses?

### MAIN POINT:

- *God loves to put in places where we really have no other option but to look at Him for supply.*  
*Read this out to the group as a type of road map for where the discussion should go.*

### INTO THE WORD:

*Before reading this passage as a group, consider the following **Core Questions**. Read these questions aloud to frame up your discussion.*

1. What does this passage reveal about what God is like? I.e. Obvious statements, attributes of His character, ability, etc.
2. What are some key words or phrases and how do they help us understand what is being said?
3. Is there some kind of action that we are called to? A sin to confess? Something to thank God for? Someone I need to pray for or encourage? A behavior I need to change?

*These are questions that can/should be used to help teach basic Bible observation. Use the same questions each week. It is good to have them read the questions prior to reading the passage so that they read with the questions in mind.*

**Passage Summary:** *With Gideon finally ready to lead the army into battle, there's a greater enemy God wishes to protect him and the Israelites from – pride and self-reliance. In an act of love, wisdom & grace, God reduces Gideon's army in such a way that both looks foolish and yet forces Gideon to look to God alone.*

*Read the Summary out before the passage. This will help set up the direction of the discussion.*

### Passage(s) to Read: Judges 7:1-15

### DISCUSSION:

1. Discuss the core questions as they relate to the passages.
2. Reading verse 2, what does this say about the Israelites and their relationship to God that He felt forced to do what He did in culling the army?  
*Obviously the Israelites had a very poor relationship with God, and were very prone to drift away from Him.*
3. As a group, describe the emotional atmosphere of the army as the troops dwindle. What might it have been like to be there?  
*The atmosphere had to move from fearful, but possibly hopeful (as they might have believed God had called them together) to one of fear as the army is reduced by a third, to finally sheer terror and confusion and bewilderment as only a few hundred are left. They had to be completely terrified!*
4. What do you think this culling might have been like for Gideon? What feelings might he have had?

5. Describe God's grace to Gideon by sending him into the camp. Why was this such a gift and a blessing to Gideon?

*Gideon's courage and strength had to be at the breaking point. But by this simple act of grace God completely shifted Gideon's faith and gave him the strength to call the army forth.*

#### **APPLICATION:**

6. Self-sufficiency causes us to believe we can succeed by our own strength. To prevent this attitude among the Israelites, God reduced the number of Gideon's army. Where in your life is God cutting back your army to prevent you from finding confidence in yourself instead of dependence on Him?
7. When faced with a battle, Gideon was fearful. In an act of grace God provided Gideon with the opportunity to overhear the conversation that would give him the courage he needed to face his battle. When is a time that God provided assurance for you during a trial? What happened?
8. If our weaknesses are opportunities for God to use us, how should this affect how we view them? How does this challenge how culture tells us to handle our weaknesses and our strengths?
9. Like Gideon we must listen to God and be ready to take a step of obedience and faith. What is a next step that God might be calling you to take?

#### **STEPS OF OBEDIENCE**

- Get in groups of 2-3, and share with each other how you can pray for one another and hold each other accountable to the next step described above. Commit to calling or texting at least once mid-week to encourage one another.

#### **PRAYER TIME**

- Pray for each other on the action steps from above, and for this to be a year of action!
- If anyone in the group has a special prayer request, make sure that is shared with the group.