

HOPE RISING

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | WEEK 4

1. Read Judges 6:1-10. What were the conditions like in Israel at this time? Why did God allow the Midianites to oppress the Jews? Do you think this was fair? Why or why not? What did it cause Israel to do?
2. Read Hebrews 12:4-11. What does this passage tell us that God does? What is the reason that God does this? In what way does God treat us the same way we treat our children? The word “discipline” in this passage literally means “to train”. In what ways does God train us as His children? Do you agree with this statement: “We should never be afraid of God as our Father but we should fear what He is able to do as our Father?”
3. Read Judges 6:11-13. What was Gideon’s response to the angel of the Lord when he told Gideon that the Lord was with him? Share a time in your life when it felt like God had abandoned you. In truth, who had abandoned who in this story? In what way is it possible for us to abandon God?
4. Read verses 14-16. What was God’s answer to Gideon’s statement that He had abandoned them? How did Gideon respond to what God said? What was God’s response then to Gideon? If we ask God to do something for us, what should we be ready to do?

Answer – When we pray and ask God to do something for us, we should be prepared for God to want to use us to bring about what we ask for. Example: If I pray for the salvation of someone, God might want to use me to share the gospel with them.

5. Pastor Rick said that in order for us to avoid what happened to Israel, we must refuse to conform to our culture. What are some things that our culture is trying to get us to conform to today that we should resist? How can you tell which ideas from our culture you should resist? Read Romans 12:2.

Answer – We must flood our minds with what God’s Word says so that our thinking is transformed. If we do this, we will recognize ideas that do not come from God.

6. Read Judges 6:36-40. What did Gideon ask God to do to confirm that He was really going to help him defeat the Midianites? Do you think Gideon should have done this? Do you think we should do this also? What are some spiritual advantages we have that Gideon did not have?

Answer – Gideon only had the first 6 books of the Bible that he could read to understand God’s will. We have the entire Bible to read and we also have the Holy Spirit living inside of us to help us understand God’s Word and His will.

7. Read Judges 7:1-7. What did God do before allowing Gideon to attack the Midianites? Why do you think He did this? How would you have felt if you were Gideon and saw how many men were left to fight against the Midianites?