

Where God Grows Our Faith

Judges 7

Where's your _____ Zone?

God grows our faith by sending us into _____ !

Faith-stretchers:

1. God calls us to **do more than** is _____ !

...**do more than**... we think... according to the power... Ephesians 3:20

- The people with you are _____ . **Judges 7:2** cf. 8:10
- Boastful saying: ' _____ has delivered me.' **Judges 7:2**

Apply: Grow in faith by surrendering _____ and _____ .

Test Quest:

- a. Where does my adequacy come from? 2 Corinthians 3:4-6
 _____ is reliance on _____-generated power and plans.
 _____ is reliance on _____ for approval & identity.
 _____ is the first step to _____ and _____ . **Judges 7:15**
- b. What sort of power does my life really require? 2 Corinthians 4:7-10
 _____ pursuits require _____ power.
 _____ pursuits require _____ power.

2. God empowers us with more than _____ !

- He put _____ & empty _____ into their hands. **Judges 7:16**
- _____ won the victory but he let His people _____ it and _____ it. 19ff.

Apply: Grow in faith through _____ .
2 Corinthians 12:8-10

*God's supply often comes " _____ ." **Judges 7:11***
An open door may be the exit door from God's call.
A closed door may be the way God develops our strength.

Challenge: Where is my faith?

- _____ ? Proverbs 3:5-8; Jeremiah 9:23; Matthew 5:3
Faith step: Open _____ , _____ hands to God to receive _____ .
- _____ ? Psalm 118:6-9
Faith test: My _____ in times of _____ is...
- _____ and _____ ? Psalm 20:7-9, 44:6-7, 49:5-8
Faith's evidence: I cling to _____ even if it means letting go of...
 If _____ from my life, would I even _____ ?

Discussion Guide

Opener: Share a time you faced an impossible battle.

What did you learn about God, yourself and faith?

Faith-stretcher 1: God calls us to do more than is humanly possible.

Agree/disagree/discuss the following statements:

- *God doesn't need skilled, strong, smart people to accomplish His work.*
- *At times, God will decrease the number of people who join us and the resources we have just as problems and conflicts multiply. He does this to strengthen our faith.*
- **God may attack our faith – if it's misplaced in self or other people.**
- Is there a difference between a healthy self-identity of God-sourced confidence and humanistic self-esteem?
- Is there a difference between *placing our faith* in people and *building trusting relationships* with people?
- What's the difference between unhealthy **codependence** and healthy **interdependence** in relationships? Home, church, community?

Faith-stretcher 2: God empowers us with more than natural resources!

Agree/disagree/discuss the following statements:

- *We **should** feel inadequate for what God calls us and commands us to do, because we **are**.*
- *We should be attempting to accomplish more in life than is humanly possible.*
- *If God is calling us to accomplish something He will supply the resources to do it before He sends us.*

Challenge: Which of the false sources of faith is more likely to detour your faith-walk: Self, other people or strategy and stuff?

Prayer Target: A faith that is focused on God and walking in obedience!

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Where's your War Zone?

God grows our faith by sending us into impossible battles!

Faith-stretchers:

1. God calls us to do more than is humanly possible!

...do more than... we think... according to the power... Ephesians 3:20

- *The people with you are too many.* **Judges 7:2** cf. 8:10
- *Boastful saying: 'My own power has delivered me.'* **Judges 7:2**

Apply: Grow in faith by surrendering self-reliance and codependence.

Test Quest:

- a. Where does my adequacy come from? 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

Independence is reliance on self-generated power and plans.

"Explore True Independence with a proven partner at your side..." - Ad

Codependency is reliance on people for approval & identity.

God-dependence is the first step to worship and victory. **Judges 7:15**

- b. What sort of power does my life really require? 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

World pursuits require worldly power.

God pursuits require godly power.

2. God empowers us with more than natural resources!

- *He put trumpets & empty pitchers into their hands.* **Judges 7:16**
- God won the victory but he let His people proclaim it and see it. 19ff.

Apply: Grow in faith through risky obedience. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

God's supply often comes "afterward." **Judges 7:11**

An open door may be the exit door from God's call.

A closed door may be the way God develops our strength.

Challenge: Where is my faith?

- **Self?**

Proverbs 3:5-8; Jeremiah 9:23; Matthew 5:3

Faith step: Open empty, powerless hands to God to receive salvation.

- **People?**

Psalm 118:6-9

Faith test: My refuge in times of trouble is...

- **Strategy** and **stuff?**

Psalm 20:7-9, 44:6-7, 49:5-8

Faith's evidence: I cling to God even if it means letting go of...

If God withdrew from my life, would I even notice?