

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.**

## Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

### Message Summary

There are times in our lives when we have done everything we know to do, and yet we are still waiting for something to happen. Paul recognized that when he closed out his letter to the Ephesians, and so he wrote these words in 6:13: "having done everything, STAND." There will be those times in our lives when we will find that we have done all that WE can do, and in those moments we must learn how to wait for God to do what only HE can do. This six-week series will teach us how to STAND, and in the first week, we learned that we need to stand IN obedience, because **SIMPLE OBEDIENCE leads to SUPERNATURAL OUTCOMES.**

1. **Obedience sets the table:** Sometimes we are guilty of skipping steps on the way to the fun stuff, and yet Paul is writing to the Ephesian believers and telling them that the **FIRST STEP** to standing is to actually **PUT ON** the armor. We get antsy and impatient and want answers to questions that don't even need to be asked yet, and God simply wants us to obediently put on the armor. Simple obedience knows that doing what we can **NOW** sets the table for us to receive what only God can give **NEXT**.
2. **God serves the meal:** Our obedience sets the table, and God serves the meal. But what does He serve? Supernatural outcomes to the battles we're facing! As we're obeying, God is working behind the scenes down to the smallest detail in order to deliver victories that are so supernatural, people would never think that **WE** did it. In fact, when it seems the odds are stacked against us, God is simply stacking the deck in **HIS** favor for the miracle **HE** is preparing. Overwhelming odds mean nothing to an overcoming God.

### Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Why do you think God wanted to reduce the size of Gideon's army? What light does Deuteronomy 20:8 shine on the reason? What effect could fear have had on the army if the first 22,000 hadn't left?
- What do you think Gideon might have been thinking when God told him in Judges 7:2 that he had too many men? Can you think of a time when God has asked you to do something that seemed a little crazy? What happened?
- Paul made this statement during the message: **Simple obedience means never using the mind God gave us to talk ourselves out of the task He's giving us.** Discuss how we can love God with our minds (a clear command in Matthew 22:37) even when we know we won't ever fully understand God's plans (Isaiah 55:8-9).
- In what way is Gideon's winnowing process similar to Paul's experience of God's grace being made perfect in human weakness (see 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)?
- Can you think of an act of obedience that you've put off because it made no sense? What kind of supernatural outcome could God bring if you simply did what you know now?
- What takeaway, if any, did you have from the message this week?