

Message-based Study

Video is available online at: visitccc.com

Connection

Describe a time in your life when you were worn out from a challenging situation and lacked peace.

Cheer and Challenge

- How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.
- Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

Content

***JEHOVAH SHALOM: "The LORD is peace."
Peace isn't just a lack of anxiety.
Peace is completeness, flourishing, well-being, wholeness, soundness.***

God wants you to know His peace so you can experience all He has for you. Understand that you can be in the place where God intends for you to be, yet experience difficulty. In Judges chapters 6 and 7 Gideon found himself in this type of situation.

1. FROM CHAOS TO QUESTIONING - Judges 6:1-16

Israel's allegiance to God became divided as they followed after other gods. Because of this, the Lord handed them over to the cruel and oppressive Midianites. The Israelites cried out to God and He responded by calling a judge to rescue them. His choice was Gideon. But Gideon questioned God's call on his life.

In verses 14-16, who does God see Gideon to be? Who does Gideon believe himself to be?

Is there an area in your life where you find yourself questioning God's call on your life? What makes you feel inept for this assignment?

2. FROM PUZZLE TO PEACE - Judges 6:17-24

When Gideon has an encounter with God's mighty power he is struck with fear. But the Lord reassures him saying, "Peace, do not be afraid." This is what we, too, need to hear from God. This peace which the Lord pronounces comes when you are on the same page as God. Peace is there because "***the LORD is peace***" is with you. In what area of your life do you crave this kind of peace?

3. **FROM ASSIGNMENT TO ACCOMPLISHMENT - Judges 6:25-29**

Before Israel could rid themselves of the Midianites, God wanted them to deal with the sin-problem in their own nation. What did God call Gideon to do to reclaim what had been lost? What made this difficult?

Is there any territory in your life that has been lost due to compromise or sin? Note that here.

What would it look like to obey God in that area, in spite of how difficult that might be?

4. **FROM FEAR TO FAITH - Judges 6:33-7:22**

Gideon obeyed, allowed God's presence and power to fill him, and watched God do the impossible. God's presence with the Israelites was what made all the difference.

Consider those places in your life where things seem impossible - places where your own human effort is just not enough. Journal a prayer here inviting Jehovah Shalom into those situations:

Commitment

"...the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace." (Romans 8:6b) Like an alarm clock that you set day after day until eventually your internal alarm is set, habitually setting your mind on God sets you internally. Read Philippians 4:6-8 and decide what you will do to set your mind on Jehovah Shalom this week.

I will _____ .



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

Listen with care to your loved ones as they share about things that erode their peace. Offer to pray for them, asking the Lord to bring His peace into those areas.