**Connect Group Questions**

Facing Weakness (Judges 6:1-16)

1 **Read Judges 6:1-6**

Both the Israelites & Midianites were direct descendants of Abraham. The preacher highlighted

the importance of seeing events in context, to fully appreciate the story & God’s role within it.

**Q** – Is there significance in God allowing the Midianites the role of punishment to the Israelites i.e

Abraham’s sons of Median (unblessed), oppressing the sons of Israel (the blessed ones)?

**Q** – How important is an understanding of context when we read the bible? What could happen

if we ignore the context of what we read?

**Q** – How could/should we use/understand context in our own lives, in order to understand our

own weaknesses better?

2 **Read Judges 6:7-10**

The preacher observed that God doesn’t chase after the Israelites, when they were disobedient to him;

instead, he waits for them to call out to him, from their oppression. He also highlights God’s patience in

faithfulness towards his wayward people.

**Q** – Does God still rebuke ‘his people’ today? If so, how and in which ways might this be seen?

**Q** – Can anyone in the group recall a time when they have been disobedient, towards God’s ways,

and maybe share what happened, in order that they were reconciled back to God?

3 **Read Judges 6:11-16**

The preacher highlighted some ironies in the bible story – The latter was the title *‘mighty warrior’* by the

‘Angel of the LORD’ to the cowering Gideon. The passage shows that God never addressed the ‘Why?’

question, concerning the oppression of the Israelites. Instead, God is looking forward and seeing a solution

to the issue in the person of Gideon… despite Gideon’s clear reluctance to be part of the solution.

**Q** – With at least 3 ironies, in this short story, is this evidence of God having a sense of humour?

**Q** – Can anyone in the group recall times when God has used irony or humour to teach us a lesson

in life? What did such treatment do to our faith?

4 **Read 2 Cors 11:30** (16-30 for context!)**, 2 Cors 12:9-10**

Paul’s teachings on weakness were shared; suggesting that weaknesses should not be avoided, or even

tolerated, but rather should be sought after, by followers of Jesus. Difficult teaching for many to accept.

**Q** – What do members of the group think about Paul (& Jesus’) teachings?

**Q** – Are there ways in which the members of the group could further share & support each other, in

areas of weaknesses?

Reflection