

STEP OUT

A sermon series on Gideon

Key Truth/Principle: United together

Key Verse(s): Judges 7 verse 1-22

Suggested format: Social time/ice-breaker, Word, worship with communion and prayer

Key Point(s)

Sunday's preach focussed on how Gideon's army provides a great example of the importance of togetherness for us as a church as we step out in faith into all that the Lord has planned for us. (Remember the promise of Eph.3 v.20)

**** TOP TIPS ****

Remember people are indwelt with the spirit – expect them to have something to bring – most just need permission and clarity, and yearn for depth.

- **WELCOME:** Have fun, involve everyone, keep it moving
- **WORSHIP:** Deliberately LEAD people into stepping out – most people appreciate specific guidance and feel released to know how to participate (e.g. let's read a Psalm together and use the words to help us worship, let's listen to this song, let's sing now, let's have a time of prophecy and hearing from God, if you feel you want to start a song please do). Encourage gifts!
- **PRAYER:** Weave into all you do, respond to things as they come up and help people by being specific (e.g. let's all go round and pray short prayers thanking God for a particular characteristic)
- **WORD:** Some folks would not have been there on Sunday – don't; worry too much about recapping, just dive into questions. Splitting people into pairs/small groups with specific question and a time frame usually brings out the best discussion and involvement of everyone.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. Whilst the main emphasis was on matters in which it is important for us to be united and together in, we are each unique with different callings and giftings and thus different roles to play in God's purposes. (Ps.139 v.13 – 16; Roms.12 v.4 – 6a)

Those in Gideon's army each had an assigned position.

- a. What role or position do you believe God has currently assigned to you to fulfil?
- b. Do you believe He is calling you into any position which you are yet to move into?

2. Psalm 133 and the early chapters of Acts, point to the importance of us being united together.

- a. What things do you think can be the cause of disunity?
- b. In what ways can we each seek to ensure unity is maintained in Redeemer?

3. From the actions of Gideon's army in Judges ch.7, the preach highlighted 8 matters in which it is important for us all to be together in.
 - a. Can you remember what these matters were?

They were:

- Together in PURPOSE – to save from enemy
- Together in CONFIDENCE in God
- Together in DEPENDENCE on God
- Together in PRAISE of God
- Together in WITNESSING for God
- Together in VIGILANCE against the enemy
- Together in STANDING firm in the faith and against the enemy
- Together in FOLLOWING our leaders

- b. Which of these do you personally find the most challenging?

4. One matter concerned the importance of us being together in standing firm in the faith (1 Peter 5 v.9; 1 Cor.16 v.13), which has been entrusted to us (Jude 3)
 - a. What aspects of the Christian faith do you see currently, as being particularly under attack, which we need to stand firm on?
 - b. Are you in a particularly hostile work situation against the Christian faith, where it is especially difficult to stand firm? Can we pray for/with you?
5. Roms.12 v.3 tells us to consider ourselves with sober judgement. With that in mind:
 - a. Do you consider yourself to be a good follower, or do you want to do your own thing?
 - b. How do you feel about the Scriptural command of Hebs.13 v.17?

Be mindful of any who have had past bad experiences from an overbearing or demanding leader. If this becomes evident, then it may be appropriate to offer prayer in your meeting, or to follow this up subsequently.

PRAY WITH ONE ANOTHER

- (i) to be good followers and for our elders to lead us forward courageously and wisely as together we step out into all that God has for us.
- (ii) for personal/ family needs
- (iii) for confidence to trust the Lord and His leaders, to step out