

# ALTARS

Title: **ALTAR OF GIDEON**

Date: MARCH 10, 2024

## Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end the life group on time.
2. Facilitate discussions with your group and **give all attendees opportunities to share their thoughts**. Encourage participation.

## Life Group Discussion Proper

### WORSHIP: (15 mins)

#### **Option 1: In person - Home gatherings**

*Suggestions: Assign someone to lead worship or play two praise & worship songs from You Tube.*

#### **Option 2: In person gatherings at a public place (park, school, café) or Online home gathering (via Zoom).**

*Suggestions: Ask people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the question: Ask the group, "What are you thankful to God about this past week?"*

#### **Main Text: Judges 6:20-24 NIV**

**Key Verses:** "When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!" [23] But the Lord said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." [24] So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace." **Judges 6:22-24**

**Intro:** In Judges 6, Gideon encountered The Angel of the Lord, who revealed him his purpose to liberate Israel from Midian's oppression. Despite his doubts, Gideon sought reassurance through an offering, which was consumed by fire, confirming that he was indeed accepted by God and that the angel's message was a divine mission. In response, Gideon built an altar and named it, "**The Lord is Peace**," symbolizing acceptance, affirmation, and the peace of God's presence.

**WELCOME:(15 mins): IWC - Introduce yourself. Welcome guests/first-time visitors. Cheerfully call someone to do the same.**

### **Ice-breaker Questions: Ask for participations**

**Q: Was there ever a time you doubted God ( ex. God's Word or promises)? Would you share your reason?**

### **WORD (30–45 mins)**

What was the importance or meaning behind the altar of Gideon and how his encounter with God relate to us today:

**1. Gideon did not die when he met/encountered the Lord — Read vv. 21-23 [21] Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared. 22 When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!" 23 But the Lord said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."**

Gideon's sacrifice was accepted by God and it kept him from death because the Bible says back in Exodus that no one can see God and live. **Read Exodus 33:19-20, "The LORD replied, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose. 20But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live."**

**Q: Would you ever desire to encounter God face to face? Why or why not?**

God's acceptance of Gideon's offering led to peace and reconciliation between them. In the same manner, Christ's sacrifice on the cross pleased God, that through faith in Christ made a way for everyone to have eternal life. Through faith in Christ, we are revived spiritually, received peace with God and become recipients of His love and restoration.

### **Discussion Questions:**

**Q: Can you relate with the fear that Gideon had upon realizing that he saw God face to face?**

**Q: If you would have the same opportunity to encounter God the way Gideon had, what do you think would be your possible reaction?**

**2. Gideon extended God's peace to Israel by leading them to be delivered from those who oppressed -  
Read Judges 6:1-5**

Under the heavy burden of oppression, the Israelites sought refuge in caves, hiding in fear of the Midianites. The Midianites continually plundered their harvests and livestock, leaving the people of Israel helpless. This situation was a consequence of God's discipline over Israel for their idolatry and defiance. Yet, upon hearing their cries to God, He responded by raising up a "mighty man of valor" (Judges 6:12) named Gideon to liberate them from their oppression.

**Discussion Questions:**

**Q: Is sharing your faith in Christ something you find challenging? Why do you think so?**

**Q: Do you know someone (a loved one, a friend, etc.) who you can pray about to have a personal encounter with God?**

**Application:** Acquiring peace with God through faith in Christ is not the final step; rather, He urges us to spread this peace to others, to generously share what He has bestowed upon us. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 NIV**

**Conclusion/ Challenge: For those who are seeking to follow Christ:**

**Q: Is there anyone who desires to have a personal relationship with God?**

**Q: Do we desire to have a living relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ and make Him Lord and Saviour?**

We need to turn from a life of sin or a life of independence from God and accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Please pray with me (lead people to pray the sinner's prayer of repentance and acceptance of Christ.)

**(Give people an opportunity to make Jesus Lord & Savior)**

"If you have not yet made Jesus, Lord and Savior of your life. I would like to give you an opportunity today to do so. Would you pray this prayer with me...*"Lord Jesus, thank You that You died on the cross and paid the full price for my sins. You took the punishment on my behalf so that I can be forgiven and have eternal life. Today, I surrender my life and I want to make you the Lord and Saviour of my life. From this day forward, be my Lord, my Master and My God. Thank You Lord Jesus for giving me eternal life. In Your name I pray, Amen."*

**LG leader, after leading people in prayer, please say this:** *"Congratulations! If you prayed with me, you became born again. You are starting a new journey in Christ as a child of God. I want to encourage you to begin reading the Bible so you can know more about the decision you made today. If you have more questions, please feel free to talk to me after the Life group. God bless you!"*

**For those who already made a commitment to follow Christ:**

**Q: How many among us gathered here today have experienced spiritual birth?** Isn't it a joy to know that God's attitude toward us has shifted from hostility to showering us with His loving kindness? Let us praise the Lord for saving us from sin and its consequences. **However**, let us not stop there, it is important that we all endeavor to spread this wonderful news to as many people as we can until our last breath or the return of Christ.

**Read: Romans 10:13-15 NIV** [13] *for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* [14] *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? [15] And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

When Gideon followed God's commands, he witnessed the incredible power of God setting Israel free from oppression. His obedience not only resulted in experiencing God's peace personally but also led to Israel enjoying peace with God and the accompanying blessings.

Let us express gratitude for the grace of God, which rescued us from sin and revitalized our connection with God through Christ's death and resurrection. Today, let us begin praying earnestly for those who are spiritually distant from God, still spiritually lifeless, that they may encounter His grace and mercy, and be reborn in Christ.

**WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKE-AWAY FROM THE LESSON?**

Tell your group to partner with someone and ask this question to their partner.

**WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer (15 mins.)**

1. Memorize a verse from your devotions this week and be prepared to share it on our next gathering.
2. Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well. Ask each other, **"what can I pray for you?"**

**Leader's Notes:**

1. Please remind your group of your next gathering and ask them to invite a friend.
2. Please encourage the group to remember to pray for one another during the week.