

Applying It In My Life.....Group time - 25 minutes

1. Describe how this destructive cycle in the life of the nation of Israel also works in your life today? (Sin, Suffering, Repentance, Blessing) How do we avoid repeating this cycle in our lives? How do expectations fit into the solution for not repeating this cycle? What needs to change about our view of God so that this destructive cycle is eliminated from our lives?
2. In today's world, some people in the Christian community have stopped believing in the impossible. Why do you think this has happened? What steps must we take in our walk with God to believe the impossible is possible? How is God working in your life to raise your expectation level?
3. What did God do to raise the hope of His people as they battled what seemed to be an impossible enemy? Describe a time when God worked in what seemed to be an impossible circumstance? How is God presently at work in your life to change seemingly impossible circumstances and problems and give you hope?

Prayer Time.....Group time - 15 minutes

Praise God that He has provided hope in the midst of the impossible. Thank Him for providing His guidance and His Word for each of us to live our lives by. As you seek to walk in obedience and the power of the Holy Spirit ask God to raise your expectations of what He can do.

Finish your prayer time by praying for the needs of those in your *Growth Group*. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests. Ask someone in the group to record your prayers so that in future weeks you can see how God is answering your prayers.

UNLEASHING HOPE *Raise Your Expectations*

- God raised Gideon's EXPECTATION level.
- Let God GUIDE your life and set your expectation levels based on God's Word.

How To Raise Your Expectations

1. Change your definition of POSSIBLE. Judges 6:12
 - Listen to God's voice and let God ESTABLISH your identity.
2. Adjust your PERSPECTIVE Judge 6:14-16
 - The size of our enemy shrinks when we see how BIG God is!
3. Build a MONUMENT to faith moments. Judges 6:22-24

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of April 20-25

Getting Started.....Group time - 15 minutes

1. When is the last time you went to a restaurant or a store and the service exceeded your expectations? How did you respond? Similarly, describe a time when you were greatly disappointed with the service at a restaurant or store. How did you respond in that situation?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's Word.....Group time - 35 minutes

Read Judges 6:1-24 (In preparation to answer questions)

1. What cycle in the life of the nation of Israel was repeated here in Judges? What was the attitude of the people of Israel during this period? What destructive steps did the people of God repeat time and time again in this cycle?

2. When the nation of Israel was at the low point of this cycle, what did they do? At that low point what historical event in the history of the people of God did God remind them of? What did this do to change their expectations?

3. Who was God's instrument of deliverance for the nation of Israel? Describe the background, qualities, and initial reaction of this deliverer? What other biblical characters had similar reactions when God spoke to them in the midst of their challenging circumstances?

4. How did God change the expectations of the people of Israel? As they sought to overcome these impossible circumstances what reassurance and guidance did God offer them? In what ways did God's words result in a readjustment of the perspective of the people of God?

5. The people of God responded to this faith moment by building a monument. What was the purpose of this faith monument? Where else in the Old Testament did the people of God build faith monuments? In what ways could we build faith monuments today?