



UNDERDOG

overcoming obstacles to our God-given destinies

Pastor John ran the anchor leg this Sunday and finished out our Underdog series, challenging us to enter into God's story. One of the key pieces is that while people's suffering causes them to cry out, God often invites us to be part of the deliverance.

FAMILY TIME

As usual, take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Introduction Question: Can you recall a time where someone was there for you in a time of need? What was the situation and how did that person come through for you?

Read Judges 6:1-10 again. Have each person take a few minutes and make observations about God and Israel.

Key Discussion Question:

- What do you think is the status of the relationship between God and the Israelites based on what you've observed?
- Why do you think they decided to cry out to God?
- Why does God respond the way He does in vv. 8-10?

Reflection Question:

- As I look at my workplace, school, family, neighborhood – what are the cries of the people around me? What kinds of suffering do I see?
- Do you think that God is speaking to you about the next season, specifically how you are to respond to the cries of your people?
- What hesitations or questions do you have for God about this?

Small Group: Break up into groups of 3-4 to share about how God is inviting you into His story of redemption in other people's lives. What fears and doubts do you have? What encouragement do you need? Is there a practical step to obey?

Judges 6:1-8 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. 2 Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. 3 Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. 4 They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. 5 They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. 6 Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.

7 When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, 8 he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."

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