



Word Notes: Sunday 15/10/17

Spot the difference: Gideon, from zero to hero.

Week 1: God calls the unlikely

- Start the meeting by asking everyone to share something they are afraid of.
- Read Judges 6:1-35
- Give out pen and paper and allocate a portion of the passage to each person. Ask them to write a summary of their portion in a few sentences. When everyone is ready, read the summaries in order. Discuss whether all the main points have been included. (*Suggested portions: v1-10, v11-16, v17-24, v25-35. Split these down further depending on how many people you have*)
- On Sunday, Clare described the process of threshing wheat on a threshing floor. Being in a less exposed location, the winepress was certainly a safer place to thresh the wheat, but it made it much harder work. Can anyone share a time where tough circumstances have led them to retreat to safer place, but where life has been harder work?
- In v11 we are told that “the angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah...” Does it make any difference to you to read that he “sat down”? (Try putting some other words in instead –e.g.: “stood” or “appeared”)
- Gideon’s first reactions to this meeting are to point out the reality of his circumstances (v 13) and then his own weaknesses (v15). How does he finally find his confidence, and why do you think this makes him confident?
- Gideon has been called to “save Israel out of Midian’s hand” (v14), but what is he told to do first (v25-26)? Why do you think he needs to do this first?
- If life’s circumstances lead you, or someone you know, to be stuck “threshing wheat in a winepress”, what could you bring from this passage which might be helpful?