GROUP DISCUSSION
Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Against All Odds
Week 3: Dependence (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)
Text: Judges 6:36-7:8

Week of June 23, 2019

As Gideon prepared for battle, God dramatically reduced the size of his army. With the odds stacked against him, Gideon had no choice but to look to God for a miracle. In our culture of self-confidence, we must learn the lesson that God taught Gideon.

Kicking it off: Jeff has a suspicion that the design winner of our pinewood derby may have benefited from a "little help" from dad. Have you ever made a pinewood derby car? If so, tell about it.

Discussion:

1. Reread *Judges 6:36-37* Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised— look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know."

   Was Gideon's use of a fleece a personal victory or failure? Why do you think so?

2. If use of a fleece is ill-advised, how does God want us to discover His will?

3. God had Gideon reduce his army of 32,000 to 10,000 and then still further to a mere 300. Gideon's tiny army was going up against 135,000 Midianite soldiers. He was outnumbered 450 to 1. What thought process to you think Gideon experienced?

4. Reread *Judges 7:2* The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.'"

   Why are we quick to give ourselves credit for victories in life?

5. God was concerned that victory would lead to "boasting." What "victories" in your life cause you to struggle with pride?

6. Can you see any truth in *Judges 7:2* that could help in our struggle for humility?

7. According to *Judges 7:2* our pride is not a mere private struggle, but a personal attack "against" God. How is pride "against" God?

Wrapping It Up: Pray for the Lord to open our eyes to see His grace behind all personal victories. Pray that personal success would lead to praise instead of pride.