

Welcome to Week 1 of Better!

The *Better* series will challenge our church to make a better Arizona by being a better influence. **Read through this guide and the Sermon Companion. Consider the best questions for your group discussion.** We encourage you to include other questions that will specifically challenge your group.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Many of us might feel like an underdog in our own story. We don't think we have the talent or resources to influence those around us. We may feel like we haven't been given opportunities to achieve. Movies like *Rudy* or *The Blind Side* may come to mind. **1 Corinthians 1:26-31** tells us that God looks at people differently than the world does, and even differently than we look at ourselves.

"Why do you think God chooses the foolish and weak things in the world to accomplish his purposes?" may be a good discussion for all groups to consider. *Perhaps this can lead to a discussion of a time when someone in your group accomplished more than others thought possible.*

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Hebrews 11 is a famous passage in scripture that lists legendary heroes from Israel's history. In **verses 29-40**, Rahab the prostitute is mentioned. It may have been acceptable to count her on other good lists, but to be counted with this group of champions is making a big statement. In this passage, the writer made equal the faith of David, Samuel and Rahab. Rahab would have had several strikes against her in a Middle Eastern culture at this period in history (Female, foreign, prostitute), but God can use all people. It is important to note that God gives us the qualifications that we need for service and He determines our value.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Judges 6:1-18 explores God's call of Gideon. **The second question about labels has the potential to get very personal. Be prepared for some people to have an emotional response.** This question might be better in groups that have a strong sense of trust.

Take the time to explore how we may get in our own way when God is calling us to something bigger than we think we are capable of doing. *If Gideon would have persisted in his self-deprecation, he may have missed out on taking part in what God was about to do in history.* His name may never have been mentioned in Hebrews 11.





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