

# UNLEASH THE POWER

INTENTION | INITIATION | INNOVATION

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- LEADERS LAB, January 25, 2018 (Thursday) 6:30 Knox Church
- PRAYER AND FASTING WEEK, January 28 – February 4
- BAPTISM BASH, February 11, 1:30PM Microtel Pool

## PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- Boldness and wisdom in innovating for God's agenda in our lives.
- For Mosaic Downtown plans and strategies

## GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

In this third part of Unleash the Power, we will look at the power of innovation and how it takes place over time to create interconnected movements that will lead us to fulfilling our calling and bringing change in our lives for God's glory. Intention leads to initiation, but we need innovation to continue pursuing our initiated plans.

**JUDGES 7:7**, *The Lord told Gideon, "With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home."*

Innovation is born out of a strong desire to solve a problem. Those who seek new, faithful ways to reach people with the gospel are driven by a similar desire. Innovation comes when there are people who take "risks" for the sake of the pursuing what God placed in their hearts with their God given knowledge, gifts and talents. In Pastor Ta's sermon based on the life of Gideon, we saw how God led him to defeat an entire enemy army through innovation.

**Less is more.** Our culture says otherwise, and many Christians think the same. Much like the rest of the world, we think that people who are most likely to succeed are the ones who have great intellect, healthy self-esteem, are good looking, rich and aggressive. In God's world, it is the weak whom He uses to achieve His purposes. In Judges 6:1-16, we find Gideon threshing wheat in a wine press because he was afraid of the Midianites. He was using something it wasn't meant for. It was in that situation when God showed up through a messenger and told him that God was going to use him to help Israel win against the invaders. Gideon's excuse was (v. 15) "But Lord, how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!" Despite Gideon's excuse, God sealed His call on Gideon's life. Sometimes, the excuses we use become the very springboard he uses to propel us. The least and weakest are always whom God uses. In God's eyes, less is more.

Another instance in which God shows us that less is more is in Judges 7:1-8, where we find God giving Gideon a military innovation that most people would view as foolish. From 32,000 army recruits, God reduced the number twice, first to 10,000, then to a measly crew of 300 men. To God, 300 men are all Gideon needed to fulfill His promise of victory over the Midianites. Verse 2 tells us that God reduced the number to such so that Israel will have no reason to boast about their might, instead rely on God's power.

**Horns, torches and pots.** In Judges 7:16, we see another innovation. Instead of fighting the enemy with swords, spears and arrows, God told Gideon to make each of his three hundred men carry a horn, a clay pot with torch inside. He divided the 300 men into three groups. Each group is assigned a post with their horns, pots and torches. Pastor Ta said, "Innovative ideas are born out of our limitations." Due to Israel's economic condition, Gideon and his army did not have the capability to acquire weaponry, but God led Gideon to innovate. We learned from our pastors that we should not be too concerned with what we don't have and instead use what we already have to pursue God's purposes for our lives and the plans He placed in our hearts. Pastor Ta shared, "Do not let what you do not have erode what God can do through what you have."

**Obey and Declare.** The 300 men surrounded a camp of 135,000 Midianite soldiers. Gideon then gives the strangest war tactic we will ever hear of in Judges 7:17-18. When they heard Gideon's signal, the 300 men blew their horns all around the entire camp, and shouted, "For the Lord and for Gideon!" Verses 19-22 tell us the most interesting war scenario. As the Israelite army blew their horns, broke their jars, held their torches and declared a victory cry, the enemy army was thrown into a great chaos and confusion and started fighting against each other. God gave them victory that night by simply obeying what God said even though it did not make sense; and declared His victory even before it happened. Innovation is applying God's gift of wisdom in our day to day life encounters.

## Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

### Question:

When was the last time you doubted your self?

What has helped you regain your confidence?

## Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

What did you find most helpful or challenging from this week's message?

In what you know about Gideon so far (Judges 6:1-7:25), how can you relate to him (in what ways are you similar)? How are you different?

If God could have easily defeated the Midianites by Himself, why do you think did He still use Gideon and the 300 soldiers to bring victory? What does this teach us about obedience and faith?

What area of your life do you need to "step out in faith" and innovate this week?

Think of a time in your life when God put you in a place where you could no longer depend on your own strength and were forced to put your faith in the Lord. Share about that in your group. How was God's power made perfect in your weakness (2 Cor 12:9)?

## Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

In what area of my life am I currently struggling to believe God's Word?

How have I seen God fulfill His promises in my past experience? Why do I still struggle to live by faith in God's promises despite what I say I believe?

When do I tend to be weakest in my faith?

How can I be a greater person of faith? What areas of my life need further growth?

How can I innovate in the areas that I need further growth in?

How can our DGroup innovate in our goal to reach more people for Jesus this year?