**Study Questions**

**Sermon Sunday April 16th Gideon’s encounter with God**

Can you recall a time when something unexpected, either positive or negative happened in your life and how did it make you feel?

**Read Judges 6:1 – 24**

**Gideon’s encounter with God happened at an unexpected point in time**

* Look at verses 1 – 10 from these verses how would you describe both the physical and spiritual state of the Israelites?
* Have you ever experienced God’s concern for you in either a good or hard time in your life and how did it manifest itself?
* The angel of the LORD said to Gideon, “The LORD is with you mighty warrior” compare that description with how Gideon saw himself and is it possible to have an inferior opinion of ourselves compared to how God see us and how can we come to see ourselves more as God sees us?

**Gideon’s encounter with God happened in an unexpected place**

* Gideon’s encounter with God took place in what could be described as a work place vv.11 – 12. Share together some of the places where you have had an encounter with God, did any surprise you?
* Reflect on those we meet in the Easter story who had an unexpected encounter with God, and look at their reactions, and what has been our reactions to any encounters with have had with God?

 **Gideon’s encounter with God happened for an unexpected purpose**

* Gideon was surprised by what God wanted him to do v.14 & v.25ff, has God ever asked you to do something you thought you were inadequate to fulfil and how did you react?
* Is it possible to plan our lives to such an extent that we can block God out?

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