

This Little Light of Mine **Judges 3:1-11**

When God permits difficult circumstances in our lives in order to test us, it is not for his benefit; He already knows the results of the test, before it happens. Rather, He tests us for our own understanding, that we might learn something about _____.

Discussion 1. Have you ever gone through a difficult struggle or season that actually taught you something about yourself and what you are capable of? Does it bother you to think that God may have permitted those circumstances in order to teach you something about yourself?

From the beginning, God's plan for His people was that they would be a source of strength and light to the world around them. Our failure, then, is particularly high-definition when we end up _____ more by the world than we influence the world.

Discussion 2. In your opinion, what are some examples of the church being influenced more by the culture than being an influence in the culture? What kinds of spiritual disciplines in our lives can help us prevent that from happening?

When God's Word conflicts with our own sense of "justice" or "equality" or "fairness" and we cannot reconcile the two, what we do next reveals to ourselves and to the world which _____ we _____.

Discussion 3. When God's Word conflicts with your own sense of fairness or justice, what steps do you take to try and reconcile the conflict? What mistakes must we avoid in this process?

While our past experiences and victories (even our heritage) certainly may inform our present usefulness to God, they do not define it. Only our present obedience defines our leadership among God's people. Without it, _____.

Discussion 4. What things about your past (good or bad) seem particularly important to your identity today? Do you think they are as important to God as they are to you? Why or why not?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?