

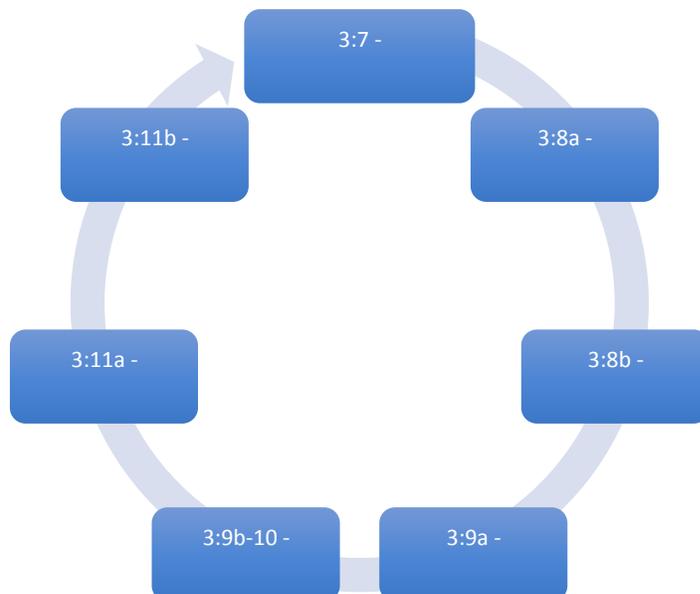
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Week of February 19, 2017
Bay Park Life Groups – Participant’s Guide

In the late 1970’s there was an actor by the name of Harrison Ford who was still trying to make ends meet by working as a carpenter. The story goes that while building a doorway in a studio one day, Ford was spotted by George Lucas who was casting for a new sci-fi film. He asked Ford to come and read with other potential actors and despite having other people in mind like Nick Nolte or Kurt Russell, George Lucas quickly realized that he had found what he was looking for. It’s not hard to guess what sci-fi film that was – Star Wars. This movie ended up setting Harrison Ford on a path to super-stardom that few actors ever get the chance to achieve. In hindsight, it’s probably easy to say that Harrison Ford taking the risk to do the reading was a no-brainer. He wanted to be an actor and roles were probably hard to come by so maybe he was desperate. On the flip side though, we might say that he could have talked himself out of it. He could have told himself that there’s no way he for him to stack up against some of the other people auditioning or he could have just given up on acting altogether and tried to stick it out with his current job.

The opportunity to take risks in our lives can present itself daily. That could mean broaching a difficult conversation with a co-worker or giving up our careers to pursue God’s calling for us. In today’s study we’re going to look at Othniel and Ehud, two judges who were called to take some big risks.

Read Judges 3:7-11

1. What stops people from taking risks? When is it a good time to take a risk?
2. Last week we filled out a diagram outlining the cycle that the Israelites would find themselves in throughout Judges. How do we see each stage of this cycle in Othniel’s story?



Read Judges 3:12-31

3. We learn in verse 15 that Ehud is left-handed. Since most people at the time were right-handed, and it was the hand you held your sword in, the right hand was a symbol of power and ability. It's mentioned that Ehud was specifically left-handed, so it's likely that he was paralyzed or disabled in his right hand in some way. God's choice of Ehud, then, would have been surprising to the first readers of Judges. How does his weakness enable him to defeat Israel's army?
4. How is knowing that we are "left-handed" humbling? How is it freeing? How should this knowledge change our lives?
5. If we try to ignore our spiritual weakness, we'll never appreciate our salvation, or enjoy relying on God's power in, and plan for, our lives. How regularly do you consider the ways in which you were, and are, spiritually weak? Are there ways in which you could enjoy living for God, but you're holding back because you're "not good enough"?