

D Group Lesson

Series: Dark Horse #3

Othniel: God Uses Ordinary People for Extraordinary Deliverance

Thesis

When God's people remember Him, remain available to Him, and rely on His Spirit, God brings deliverance through ordinary people for His glory.

Primary Text: Judges 3:7–11

Author: Based on a sermon by Pastor Steve Wyatt (6/12/2026)

HOOK (Connect the Heart)

Icebreaker

Think of a time when you forgot something important—a birthday, an appointment, or your keys. What happened because you forgot?

Transition:

Forgetting important things usually has consequences. In Judges 3, Israel didn't just forget something—they forgot Someone. Their spiritual forgetfulness led them into slavery, but God's grace raised up an unlikely hero named Othniel.

LOOK (Study the Word)

Read Judges 3:7–11

What Happened?

After Joshua died, Israel drifted from God. Instead of worshiping the Lord who had rescued them from Egypt, they served the false gods of the surrounding nations.

Because they rejected God, He allowed them to experience the consequences of their choices. Israel lived under oppression for eight years before crying out to the Lord.

God responded with mercy by raising up Othniel, Caleb's nephew, to deliver His people. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, he defeated Israel's enemy, and the land experienced forty years of peace.

Three Truths from Othniel's Story

1. Remember God

"The Israelites did evil... They forgot the Lord their God..." (Judges 3:7)

Israel's greatest problem wasn't military weakness—it was spiritual forgetfulness.

When we forget God, we begin replacing Him with lesser things.

Modern idols may include:

- Success
- Comfort
- Entertainment
- Relationships
- Money
- Politics
- Approval from others

Remembering God means intentionally spending time with Him through Scripture, prayer, worship, and gratitude.

Discussion Questions

- What causes believers to slowly drift from God?
 - What "idols" compete for your attention today?
 - What helps you intentionally remember God's faithfulness?
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2. Stay Available

Othniel wasn't famous.

He wasn't the strongest or most impressive leader.

He simply made himself available for God to use.

God consistently works through ordinary people with willing hearts.

Our greatest ability is often our **availability**.

Discussion Questions

- What excuses keep people from serving God?
- Where might God be asking you to step out in faith?
- How has God used ordinary people to impact your life?

3. Rely on God's Strength

"The Spirit of the Lord came upon him..." (Judges 3:10)

Othniel didn't deliver Israel because of his own ability.

Victory came because God's Spirit empowered him.

The same principle is true today.

Our battles are not won by talent, intelligence, or determination alone, but through dependence on God's power.

Zechariah 4:6

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty."

Discussion Questions

- What battle are you currently trying to fight in your own strength?
- What would relying on God's Spirit look like this week?
- Why do you think God chooses ordinary people instead of impressive ones?

TOOK (Apply the Truth)

Personal Reflection

Take a few moments to write two lists.

List One

Write down several ways God has been faithful in your life.

Examples:

- Answered prayers
- Salvation
- Protection
- Family
- Healing
- Provision
- Spiritual growth

List Two

Where do you need God's deliverance today?

Perhaps you need God to help with:

- A broken relationship
- Financial stress
- Anxiety
- A difficult family situation
- An ongoing temptation
- A decision you're facing
- Spiritual dryness

Pray specifically over those needs this week.

Weekly Challenge

This week:

- Spend time each day remembering one specific way God has been faithful.
 - Ask God where He wants you to be available to serve someone.
 - Begin each day praying, "Holy Spirit, strengthen me to live for Christ today."
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Gospel Connection

Othniel points us to someone even greater.

Othniel rescued Israel from an earthly enemy.

Jesus rescues us from sin and death.

Othniel was empowered by the Spirit.

Jesus lived in perfect obedience through the Spirit.

Othniel brought forty years of peace.

Jesus brings eternal peace with God.

The greatest Deliverer is not Othniel—it is Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

Memory Verse

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for Your faithfulness even when we forget You. Help us remember all You have done for us. Make us available for Your work, and teach us to rely on the power of Your Holy Spirit rather than on our own strength. Thank You for sending Jesus, our perfect Deliverer, who has rescued us from sin and given us new life. Use us for Your glory this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.