

THE WEAKNESS OF A RESCUER

Junior High Lesson - May 24



Start with this video on the story of Gideon
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U68cIMZSgvQ>

Main Point: God works through our weakness and empowers us to accomplish His will.

Overview: There is a thread running throughout the Bible that shows us God is not impressed by the things that often impress us. God is not wowed by muscles, brains, talent, or riches. In fact, the people in the Bible who possessed these often found themselves stumbling with pride and faithlessness.

- The mind-set of our world is that great things are accomplished by strong people. **Why do you think God might choose to do otherwise?**

God loves to use underdogs. From David to Mary, Samuel to Paul, God uses the men and women who don't impress us to wow us. We don't cheer for them just because they are nobodies; we cheer for them because they realized they are somebody with God on their side. And maybe that gives us hope. Gideon may be one of the most celebrated of all the underdogs. You'll find him hiding when God calls him and doubting when God gives him assurance. Like a child wanting to jump off the high dive, we see Gideon wanting to obey faithfully, but afraid to actually take the leap. And this was precisely why God chose him as a judge. It was not Gideon's faith or power that God wanted to use, but rather his weakness. It might seem ridiculous, but we will see that God is most glorified when the vessels He uses are at their weakest.

Bible Passage: Judges 6:11-16, 36-40, 7:7

11 Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor."

13 And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." 14 And the LORD[a] turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" 15 And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

16 And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."
... 36 Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, 37 behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said." 38 And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. 39 Then Gideon said to God, "Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew." 40 And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew. ... 7 And the LORD said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home."

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- Gideon found himself in a difficult situation; one where he surely did not want to be alone. The Israelites had once again committed evil acts again, so once again, He raised another people to disciple his own.
- This time he used the Midianites. After seven years of oppression, the Israelites were in desperate need of deliverance. Things were so bad that the people resorted to hiding in caves, and whenever the Midianites saw that the Israelites were planting crops, they would attack and destroy the produce.
- That is when God sent word to Gideon that He was about to use him to rescue his people. When God came to Gideon, he made him an incredible promise to him: "The Lord is with you."

Discussion Questions from Judges 6:11-16:

1. How do you think Gideon felt when the Lord told him that he would help deliver the Israelites from the Midianites?
2. What is his excuse in verse 15? What is God's response?
3. Have you ever been given a task in your life where you thought, "there is no way i can do this?"
4. Where is one area of your life where God might be able to help you this week?

MAIN POINT



In our weakness we are strong if we let God help us!

"Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Read Judges 6:36-40, Judges 7:7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- When have you asked the Lord for some sort of sign to prove you were on the right track? What was the result?
- How has God brought good from difficult situations in your life?
- How do you think God is bringing good out of the Corona Virus pandemic? In your family? School? Friends? Neighborhood?
- Do you think this is a good time to help people realize that God is with them no matter what is happening in the world?
- Come up with a list of ways you can help people during this difficult time period? How might these ways show God's love to people?

Share your highs and lows from this past week. Close in pray for each other giving God thanks for your highs and asking God to be with you in your lows.

BIBLE STUDY, GAMES AND FRIENDS

Join us Wednesday @ 7pm on Zoom

Click Here To Join the Meeting?

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9829170570>



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

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