

## GOD CALLED GIDEON

*God called Gideon in order to display His power  
and save His people.*



THE STORY: JUDGES 6:1-10

MONDAY

## Israel did evil in the eyes the Lord

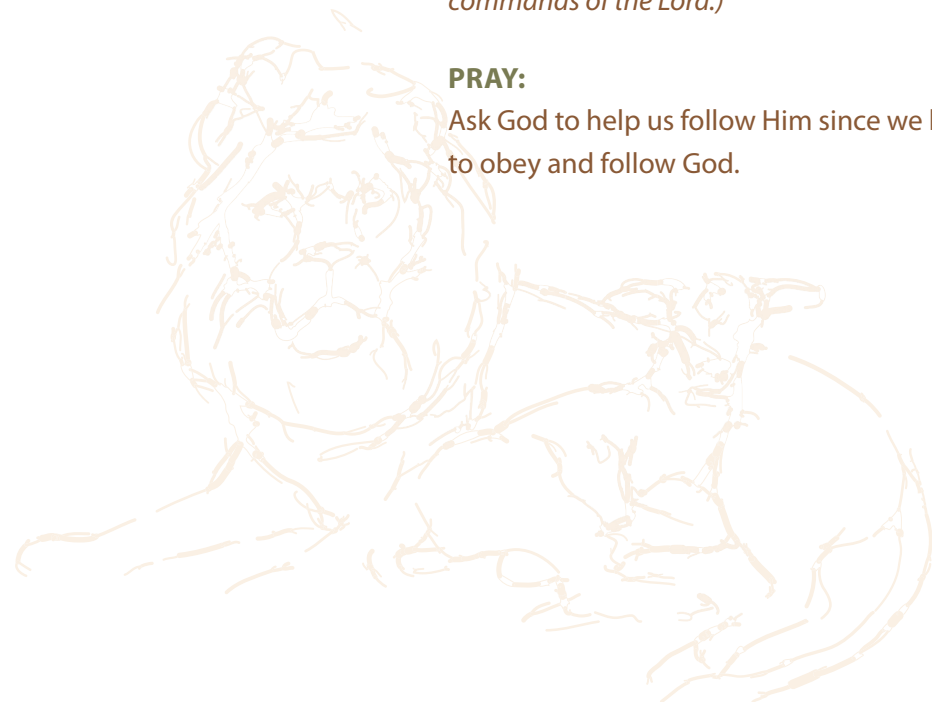
Israel did evil in the eyes the Lord. After crossing into Canaan, the tribes of Israel were to completely destroy the Canaanite people but they failed (see Judges 1:1-33). Because the Israelites did not complete the conquest of Canaan, the native peoples' idolatry led Israel astray just as God had said it would (see Deuteronomy 7:1-5). At the beginning of Judges 6 we read that the people of Israel were still disobeying God. As the chapter continues, we can see how God used the Midianites to oppress the Israelites until they called out to Him for help. When the Israelites did cry out for help, God, in His kindness, sent a prophet to explain to Israel why they were being oppressed by the Midianites. God demonstrated His amazing mercy towards Israel by speaking to them through the prophet even though they were disobedient.. God loved His people and was not thwarted by their sin. In time, God would send the ultimate deliverer for all mankind, His Son Jesus, but in this instance He used a man named Gideon to save the Israelites in the midst of their rebellion.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Does God's swift judgment against Achan (God judged Achan for holding on to the devoted things of Jericho) make more sense now that you see what happened to Israel? *(Yes, even with the warning of Achan's judgment, Israel did not follow the commands of the Lord.)*

### PRAY:

Ask God to help us follow Him since we have all the warnings in Scripture to lead us to obey and follow God.





## God called Gideon

God called Gideon. At the beginning of this passage, we first read of Gideon hiding in fear of the Midianites, threshing wheat in a winepress. Gideon was not calling on God nor was he expecting a visit from God. God wanted to save His people so He appeared to Gideon in the form of an angel of the Lord. God chose Gideon, of the weakest clan in the tribe of Manasseh and the weakest man in his father's house. In other words, if one were to look for a deliverer, Gideon would not be an obvious choice. However, God desired to bring glory to Himself, not to any man, so he chose Gideon to deliver His people.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Was Gideon calling out to God or did God call Gideon? (*Gideon was not calling out to God at all, he was hiding in fear.*)

How is God's call to Gideon like His call to all men? (*God's call comes to people who by nature are resisting God, not calling out to Him. Our faith in God is always in response to His call to us.*)

### PRAY:

Ask God to reach out to each person in your family with His irresistible call and give grace to believe and respond to Him.





## Where is Jesus?

God demonstrates His power through men by choosing the weak and foolish to accomplish great things. That way, in the end, God gets the glory. Salvation is by faith and the work of God alone. When God first saves us we are hopelessly lost in our sins, unable to save ourselves. Even in the Old Testament God routinely choose those who were weak to deliver his people. Gideon was such a man.

God used Gideon to save Israel by conquering the Midianites. God has continued to use the weak things of the world to demonstrate His power. In 1 Corinthians 1, Paul reveals why God chooses to do so: He chooses the weak things of the world to shame the wise and to demonstrate His power. Even Jesus came in meekness as a servant. He was an unlikely Savior. Gideon's life points forward to our salvation in Christ.

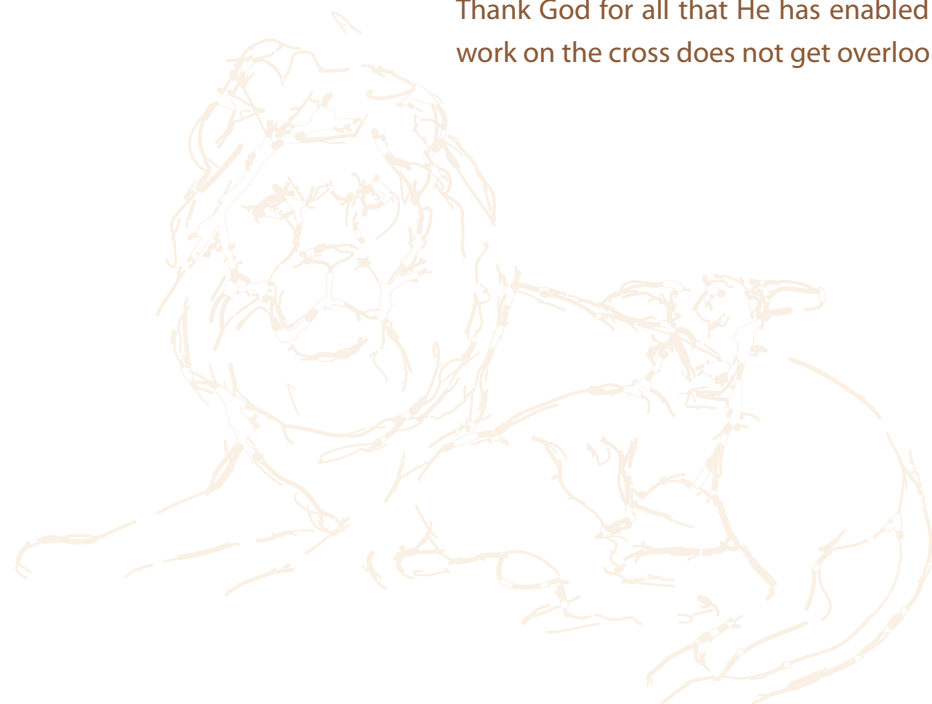
### TALK ABOUT IT:

How are we weak like Gideon in our battle against sin? (*Gideon's enemy was impossible to defeat apart from God's grace. Our enemy, sin, is also bigger than we can handle. With the grace of God through the sacrifice of Christ, sin has been conquered. Gideon delivered Israel from the Midianites; Christ has delivered us from sin and death.*)

What does it mean to boast in the Lord? (*All of our accomplishments are made possible by the grace of God. The most significant of these accomplishments is our salvation. It is important for us to not mistakenly imagine that we accomplish anything lasting apart from the Cross and the grace made available to us through the Cross. Our boast is not in what we have done but in what Jesus has done.*)

### PRAY:

Thank God for all that He has enabled you to do. (Parents: ensure that the saving work on the cross does not get overlooked for lesser accomplishments.)





## Gideon obeyed God

Gideon obeyed God. Gideon asked God for a sign to help build his faith and God agreed. Gideon prepared a meal for the angel of the Lord and it was consumed by fire when the angel touched the offering. This sign convinced Gideon that it was the Lord who was speaking to him and he believed. God then called Gideon to tear down the altar of Baal and the Asherah that was beside it. He told Gideon to build an altar to the Lord and prepare a sacrifice to offer there, . He also told Gideon to offer a second bull as a burnt offering, using the wood from the Asherah as fuel. Gideon obeyed but he performed these tasks at night because he was afraid. When daybreak came, the people investigated and discovered that it was Gideon who tore down the altars. (Gideon employed servants because a seven-year bull would be far too heavy for one man to lift up on an altar. These servants likely gave his identity away.)

### TALK ABOUT IT:

How did God demonstrate mercy toward Gideon? *(When Gideon asked for a sign to help his weak faith, God gave a sign. Notice how Gideon asked with respect and did not demand a sign from God.)*

How did Gideon, in spite of his fear, demonstrate courage? *(Gideon obeyed the Lord by breaking down the altar of Baal and the Asherah pole at night.)*

### PRAY:

Ask God for courage to obey Him in everything He has commanded in His Word.





## On the road to Emmaus.

It is Christ who will save Judah and take the name, "the Lord is our righteousness."

1 Corinthians 1:30 tells us that Jesus has become "our righteousness." That's why our boast is in the Lord and not in anything that we have done!

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Why should our boast be in the Lord? *(There is nothing we could have done by our own works to save ourselves. Apart from Christ, we would be hopelessly lost. In fact, we probably would not have even been born. If it were not for the promise of Jesus, Adam and Eve would likely have been judged immediately and completely (killed for their sin) and there would be no generations after them. We exist because of Christ and it is through Christ that we are saved. As a result, our only boast is in the Lord.)*

How can the Lord's righteousness given to us cause us to dwell securely? *(God's righteousness is perfect and fully satisfies all requirements. It cannot be improved upon. We never need to wonder if the Lord's righteousness will be sufficient. It is perfect in every way!)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for His perfect righteousness which enables us to dwell securely with all confidence.

