

UNLIKELY HEROES

EXTRAORDINARY PLANS
FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE



POWER IN WEAKNESS.

Gideon was the weakest man in the weakest clan.

Let's talk in 1995 terms:

Gideon was consistently picked last for kickball.

Gideon was not stoked for Physical Fitness testing.

Red Rover, Red Rover, send Gideon over.

Basically, Gideon is not the guy you want leading your army - especially when God has whittled down that army from 32,000 to 300 people.

But God uses Gideon - the cowardly, unsure, weak man - to lead an army of 300 people into battle with only trumpets and jars.

Trumpets. And jars.

And they defeat their enemies.

Because God doesn't need strong warriors, charismatic speakers, or brilliant minds to fulfill His plans. In fact, He doesn't *need* us at all. He *wants* to use us.

And when He calls you for a purpose in all your weakness and in all your mess, He gets to be glorified even more.

His power is made perfect in our weakness.

IN THE BIBLE.

Judges 6:12-16

12 The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!”

13 “Sir,” Gideon replied, “if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn’t they say, ‘The Lord brought us up out of Egypt’? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites.”

14 Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!”

15 “But Lord,” Gideon replied, “how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!”

16 The Lord said to him, “I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.”

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

8 Three different times I begged the Lord to take [the thorn in my side] away. 9 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. 10 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.

Psalms 118:6

The LORD is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?

QUESTIONS.

1. What sticks out to you in 2 Corinthians 12:8-10?
2. So far in The Story, what are some other "weaknesses" we've seen God use for His glory?
3. Has God ever worked through you despite (or because of) a weakness? When?
4. What are things you can do to prepare to be used by God?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?