

Every Hero Needs Reassurance

October 10, 2021

PREPARATION

▶ STUDY

Spend the week studying Judges 6:33-40. Consult the commentary provided and any additional study tools to enhance your preparation.

▶ PRAY

Pray for our pastors and this week's message, the upcoming group time, your group members, and their openness to God's Word.

▶ LANDING POINT

Real faith is shifting your focus off of yourself and on to God.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- ▶ **CONFIDENTIALITY** | What's said in the group stays in the group.
- ▶ **NO CROSS-TALK** | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.
- ▶ **NO FIXING** | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.
- ▶ **SHARING** | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

A CHOICE

Life is filled with uncertainty. Rarely does life work the way we want it to work. We make our plans for the future but our circumstances can change in a moment, leaving us wondering what to do. God may also call us to do something that pushes us out of our comfort zones. When life's plans change or God calls us out of our comfort zones, we have a choice: we will respond in faith or respond in fear.

This week your group will look at the choice Gideon made in response to God's call and what it means to have real faith when confronted with uncertainty and doubt.

Q: Share about a time when God called you to do something that pushed you outside your comfort zone. What did you learn from your experience?

DEEPER DIVE

I NEED A SIGN

God has heard the cries of His people and He has called Gideon to be the unlikely hero to lead the Israelites to victory over their enemies. God has already promised success to Gideon but Gideon questions whether he's the man for the job. He seems unsure that he can complete the task God has called him to complete and wants assurance from God that He will be true to His word.

Let's take a look at God's response to Gideon's uncertainty and doubt and what we might learn from it.

Q: Have a volunteer read Judges 6:33-40. How does Gideon show a lack of faith in the story?

Q: What encouragement can you take from the way God responds to Gideon?

Q: Describe someone who shows real faith in their life. What about them would you like to imitate in your own life?

REFLECTION AND NEXT STEPS

WHERE'S YOUR FOCUS?

Gideon is a lot like us. We too can succumb to fear and doubt when faced with life's uncertainties. We may be reluctant to accept God's call, to choose faith over fear. Gideon's biggest problem was his focus. Instead of focusing on the God who called him and promised him success, he focused on himself and what he lacked as a leader.

To be an unlikely hero today, you must choose where you are going to put your focus. Will it be on yourself or on God? Will you say, "I'm somebody" or "I'm nobody" which are two sides of the same coin of pride. Or will you take the focus off of yourself and say, "God is somebody!" Real faith is shifting your focus off of yourself and on to God. It's looking to Him and seeing who He is and what He can do rather than who you are and what you can or cannot do.

Q: What things could prevent you from choosing faith over fear?

Q: Where in your life is God calling you to trust Him in faith?

Q: What's one practical thing you can do this week to shift your focus on to God?

Q: How can the group be praying for you this week?

COMMENTARY

REQUESTING A SIGN "Gideon was the first person in the Bible to request a sign from God. Normally, God initiates signs, and He does so not by request but by His design. Since God said He would save Israel, why did He perform the requested signs? God performed the signs with the fleece because He intended to save Israel; He would not let Gideon's unbelief derail His plan. No character in the book receives more divine assurance than Gideon, yet none displays more doubt."¹

GOD'S CARE "The incident we read about here gives us an example of God's patience and kindness. Gideon had already been given the guidance he needed, but God looked on his uncertainty with compassion and reassured him. So instead of treating these verses as a pattern for guidance, we should see them as an example of God's care. There will be times when we become uncertain about a task God has called us to do, and we should take encouragement from the way in which He cared for Gideon."²

SEEKING ASSURANCE "On the one hand, Gideon's fears are understandable: the task he is preparing to do is difficult and dangerous. On the other hand, the angel's appearance and promise (vv. 11–24) already included a confirmatory miracle (v. 21), and Gideon had already begun to obey (vv. 25–27) and to see God's protection (v. 31). In any event, God stoops to Gideon's level and grants the signs requested."³

ENDNOTES:

1. D. A. Carson, ed., *NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 404.
2. Simon J Robinson, *Opening up Judges, Opening Up Commentary* (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2006), 41–42.
3. Crossway Bibles, *The ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 450.