

PRAYER

- Pray for each person in your group to have the grace to trust and obey God’s Word.

- Pray for God to turn your weaknesses into strength.

- Pray for breakthrough in the difficult situations you are facing.



NOTES

CONNECT

- Have you ever watched a game where a team was terribly down by so many points and yet they still won in the end? How did you feel?
- At a time when you were put in a great disadvantage and was really desperate for help, who helped you?
- Have you ever experienced being bullied? Share what happened.



WORD

¹¹The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹²When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”

Judges 6:11,12

WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

In the time of Gideon, Israel was severely oppressed by the Midianites, constantly invading their land and destroying all their crops and livestock—a consequence of their disobedience to God. Their enemies were way more powerful than them, but they remembered to call on God. And God answered and mightily saw Israel through in such a hopeless situation. What lessons can we get from this story?

- **God is with us in times of trouble.**

This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalm 34:6

In Judges 6:7-10, we find why Israel was at its oppressed state. Nevertheless, God never abandoned Israel even if it was unfaithful. He even initiated a way for their salvation through Gideon whom He commissioned to fight for Israel. Recount the time when you were facing difficulty and yet you saw how God has never left your side. How did that experience strengthen your faith in Him?

- **GOD instructs us in difficult situations.**

¹⁴The LORD turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?” . . . ¹⁶The LORD answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together.”

Judges 6:14,16

In such a hopeless situation, Gideon must have felt that God has abandoned Israel. Even when the Lord Himself assured him of guidance, Gideon still had to test God. For sure, Gideon knew who God was but just

lacked the faith. And like Gideon, we often doubt God and His ways, which are way higher than ours (Psalm 32:8). In the past, how has God proven Himself faithful to you?

- **God turns our weakness into strength.**

³²And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets . . . ³⁴quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

Hebrews 11:32,34

When the angel of the Lord called him, “mighty warrior,” Gideon reasoned out why he is not the person to choose. Like him, we too have our own excuses why we cannot do certain things. However, God does not give a calling without His provision of ability, favor, and grace. Gideon eventually trusted God and was led to victory. Recall a time when God enabled you to do something you could not have done on your own. How has this helped you face challenges?

SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- When troubles come, what is your first instinct? Who do you ask help from?
- What situations do you have much faith in God in already? Which area is still a struggle for you?
- Which of the three points has much more impact on you and your situation today? Why do you believe so?

NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- What promises are you holding on to right now? How can you strengthen your confidence and faith that God will do what He promised you?
- What area in your life are you having a hard time obeying God’s Word?
- What one practical and specific thing can you do this week to express your deep respect and love to God?