

## Unexpected Heroes - Gideon

### Discussion Guide

*Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!*

#### Open

Our new sermon series *Unexpected Heroes* begins this week with a look at how Gideon, who began his leadership with timidity and reluctance, ultimately became God's champion. The key for Gideon was his choice to demonstrate faith each time God asked Him to follow - even when he wasn't sure what the outcome would be. To get your conversations started today, share about the last time you were challenged and had to step out of your comfort zone - what did you do and what happened?

#### BIG THOUGHT

Gideon shows us that if we will faithfully take even the smallest steps of obedience, over time God will do more through us than we ever thought possible

1. To set the scene, read Judges 6:1-10. Why were the Israelites in such difficult circumstances? What did they eventually end up doing? (v. 6) What did God want the people to know about why they were in such a tough spot? (v. 7-10) When you were a kid were you quick to confess or did you try to deny everything? How about now? Explain.
2. Now read v. 11-12. Who came to talk with Gideon? (see also Exodus 3:2 for another example) What do you think his visitor looked like? Why do you think the author wrote such specific geographical details? What stands out to you in his greeting to Gideon? (v. 12)

3. Read v. 13. What is Gideon's question? And how is his conclusion both right and wrong at the same time? How does this parallel with your experience of tough times that seem to go on forever? Share with the group if you can.
4. Now read v. 14-16. What does God tell Gideon to do? Where will his success come from? (v. 14) What limitations does Gideon list in v. 15? And what is the Lord's response? (v. 16) What types of challenges tend to bring up the things you feel the most vulnerable about?
5. Read v. 17-24. When Gideon takes care of his visitor in keeping with the customs of the time, what happens? What does Gideon realize? (v. 22) And how does that realization give him just a little more courage? (see v. 25-27)
6. To finish, read Judges 7:15-25. What happens once Gideon gains full confidence that God is leading him? What steps do you need to take to grow your confidence that God is leading you, too?

#### Take it Further

Take time to thank God for the ways that He has led you up to this point in your life, and then ask Him to give you the courage to follow Him into the new challenges He has for you.

#### Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Joshua 1:9

Day 2: Isaiah 41:10

Day 3: Psalm 16:8

Day 4: Psalm 27:14

Day 5: Ephesians 6:13

Day 6: Philippians 4:13

Memory Verses: Judges 6:12



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