



Gideon: From Pessimism to Optimism

WORSHIP (15 MINS)

11-10-2024

Venue: Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.

Venue: Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or **Via Online**,

Testimonies: "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"

Ask someone to do the opening prayer:

WELCOME (15 MINS)

Welcome guests/first-time visitors.

Memory Verse for the week: Judges 6:12, **"When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."**

Quote: **"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."** — Helen Keller

WORD(30-45 MINS) Text:Judges 6:1-6,11-15

Intro: This is the story of Gideon, (around approximately 1150 BC) once a fearful, complaining young man, who became a Jewish leader and judge, who rose to lead Israel during a time of severe crisis. Why was Israel suffering during Gideon's time? It was due to their idolatry and wickedness!

Main Text: Read Main Text: JUDGES 6: 1-6, 11-15 NIV

When God called Gideon to lead Israel to victory, he was far from the courageous figure his name implied. (Gideon means **"one who cuts down."** Hebrew, **"Gid'on,"** which means **"warrior."**) God had to work within him to shape him into the person who would live up to the meaning of his name and lead his people to freedom. He defeated an overwhelmingly large enemy force with only 300 soldiers by his side. The story of Gideon in the Bible provides several insights on moving from pessimism to optimism.

Gideon was called to guide them back to faith and therefore delivered them from oppression. Let's learn how Gideon moved from pessimism to optimism.

1. Gideon acknowledged or faced his fears and doubts- Read Judges 6:11-15 NIV

Gideon's response to God's call was doubts and feelings of inadequacy. He felt small and insignificant, but God encouraged him to see his true potential.

Application: Gideon's story teaches us that acknowledging our fears and insecurities is the first step toward growth and optimism.

Q: *Why do you think Gideon feel unqualified to fulfill what God is asking him to do?*

Q: *How did God encourage Gideon despite his feelings of inadequacy?*

Q:*Why do you think it is necessary to acknowledge our fears as well as our insecurities?*

2. Gideon experienced God's Patience and Reassurance- Read Judges 6:16-18, 22-24, 36-40

God provided Gideon with repeated reassurance, like signs involving a fleece, to help build his faith. He helped Gideon transition from doubt to confidence. God knows how to transform how we think, and move us forward to face the challenges we are facing with courage and with a spiritual perspective.

Application: God understands our need for confirmation most especially in making difficult decisions and He is patient enough to being us through the process of trusting His plans and purposes.

Q: *How did God's reassurance help Gideon transition from being a doubter to a man of confidence?*

Q: *Why is it important for us to seek God's confirmation in moments of difficulties and uncertainty?*

Q: *Have you ever experienced a time when God reassured you in a way that strengthened your faith? What was that feeling like?*

Leader's Tips:

- S - Sensitivity. No one should feel left out.
- P - Participation is encouraged.
- A - Acknowledge. Make guests feel welcomed.
- C - Confidentiality. What is shared stays in the group.
- E - Encouragement. Be a blessing to one another.

3. Gideon Trusted God's ways - Read Judges 7:1-7 NIV

God reduced Gideon's army from 32,000 to **300** to show that victory would come through divine power, not human strength. This shift from reliance on numbers to faith in God reminds us that true success is not always in our control but in trusting God's wisdom and power.

Application: Throughout the scriptures, we see that whenever people placed their trust in God and followed His ways, victory was possible even in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges.

Q: *How do you think Gideon and his men felt when their numbers were reduced?*

Q: *What lesson was God teaching Gideon and his army in achieving victory with such a small army compared to a massive army of the enemy?*

Q: *What are some situations in your life where you've had to trust in God's power rather than your own strength, wisdom or efforts?*

Q: *What does the story of Gideon teach us about the true source of strength and success?*

Reflection: *What's Gideon and 300 soldiers, do with trumpets and jars or pitchers against an army like a swarm of locusts - impossible to count? This can only be possible when God transforms a pessimist to an optimist **whose optimism is the greatness of God.***

Conclusion: *Gideon's journey shows how God can transform ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. Despite his doubts, Gideon trusted God and led Israel to a great victory. This teaches us that faith and God's power can help us achieve what we once thought impossible.*

Q: *What's your take away from this lesson?*

What is your take-away from this lesson?

WORK: The Challenge (15 mins.)

P- Pray for one another. Ask *"what can I pray for you?"*

R- Remind to invite a friend on the next gathering.

A- Apply the message during the week.

Y- Yearn to share your faith with someone during the week.