

Gideon and God's Unconventional Ways

You've heard it before and maybe even said it yourself: "God works in mysterious ways." It's what Christians say when an outcome surprises us or when we can't imagine how God can resolve an impossible situation. In Judges 6, when God chooses Gideon as Israel's next deliverer, he upends human logic and expectation. Gideon's story reminds us that we are not in control and that God can win mighty victories, despite the odds, and in the most unconventional of ways. It also reminds us that no matter how many excuses we make, God can and will use us to do his work, *if* we make ourselves available to him.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Was there ever a time when you had so few resources, that you couldn't imagine how God could possibly get you through? How did it affect your faith?
- What is the most unexpected way you've seen God work in your life or in the life of someone close to you?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Gideon and God's Unconventional Ways](#)

READ [Judges 6-7](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In his commentary, *Judges for You*, Timothy Keller asserts that Gideon makes two mistakes in his exchange with the Angel of the Lord in [Judges 6:1-24](#), mistakes we too are all inclined to make ourselves. "First, we tend to see our troubles as evidence that God has left us, instead of asking how God is working in and through them for our good, as he promises to ([Romans 8:28](#)). Second, we are often waiting for God to do something *to* us or *for* us, or wondering why he doesn't use someone to bring help" (73). What do you think of Keller's observation? Do you find it to be true? Do you recognize either of these tendencies in your own faith life?
- God whittles Gideon's 32,000 men down to 300 men so that Israel cannot boast in their own strength; so they have no choice but to recognize God's hand in their deliverance. Why is this critical? What effect does it have on your faith if you claim the glory rightfully due to God?
- In segment 3, host Dave Bast notes that Gideon worships the Lord "before the battle, not after." Why is this an important observation? What might worship before deliverance look like for us...when we need healing from cancer or addiction...when we face a battle for financial peace...when we desire liberation from unbearable circumstances? Why is worship difficult for us at these times?
- In [1 Corinthians 1:27](#), the Apostle Paul writes, "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong." Where do you see this to be true in Gideon's story? How does this truth encourage you in your faith?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Hebrews 11:32-34](#), [1 Corinthians 1:26-29](#), [Ephesians 2:10](#), [2 Corinthians 12:7-10](#)

CONCLUSION

As Dave closes the episode, he reflects on a few examples in scripture when God used the “committed few” in powerful ways, to win mighty victories and do his work in the world. Identify a few contemporary examples of the “committed few.” What qualities from Gideon’s story do you recognize in theirs? Describe their faith, why were they an unlikely or unconventional choice by worldly standards,? What are the powerful ways God is using them to do his work and deliver his people today? Reflect on how God is calling you; do you have the faith to trust him and worship him before, not after the earthly battle? Pray that he would make you into a leader like Gideon.

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