

# AMAZING STORIES

## The Reluctant Leader (Gideon)

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<sup>1</sup> The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian for seven years. <sup>2</sup> The hand of Midian prevailed over Israel; and because of Midian the Israelites provided for themselves hiding-places in the mountains, caves and strongholds. <sup>3</sup> For whenever the Israelites put in seed, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the east would come up against them. <sup>4</sup> They would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the land, as far as the neighbourhood of Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel, and no sheep or ox or donkey.

**Judges 6:1-4 NLT**

### 1. Gideon called to lead during hard times

- Raiders would destroy their food
- Many had lost hope including Gideon

### 2. God calls Gideon in his doubt

- God was building Gideon's faith while rescuing his people
- Gideon obeyed God in the dark

<sup>11</sup> Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the oak at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, to hide it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup> The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, 'The LORD is with you, you mighty warrior.' <sup>13</sup> Gideon answered him, 'But sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all

his wonderful deeds that our ancestors recounted to us, saying, "Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?" But now the LORD has cast us off, and given us into the hand of Midian.' <sup>14</sup> Then the LORD turned to him and said, 'Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; I hereby commission you.' <sup>15</sup> He responded, 'But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.' <sup>16</sup> The LORD said to him, 'But I will be with you, and you shall strike down the Midianites, every one of them.'

**Judges 6:11-16 NLT**

<sup>25</sup> That night the LORD said to him, 'Take your father's bull, the second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father, and cut down the sacred pole that is beside it; <sup>26</sup> and build an altar to the LORD your God on the top of the stronghold here, in proper order; then take the second bull, and offer it as a burnt-offering with the wood of the sacred pole that you shall cut down.' <sup>27</sup> So Gideon took ten of his servants, and did as the LORD had told him; but because he was too afraid of his family and the townspeople to do it by day, he did it by night.

**Judges 6:25-27 NLT**

### 3. Gideon became a powerful leader and warrior by obeying God one step at a time

#### Next Steps:

- Read the rest of Gideon's story (Judges 6-8)
- Commit to serve God and say "yes" to him even when I don't feel qualified or ready
- Commit to follow God day-by-day for the rest of my life
- One thing I believe God wants me to do, even though I don't feel ready yet, is \_\_\_\_\_  
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