



GIDEON

FAMILY DEVOS

Mighty Man of Valor

Scripture: Judges 6:1-23

Memory Verse: Joshua 1:9

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

For My Family

The Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord. Just as we learned in our last devotion, the people turned their backs on God, and so the Lord removed His hand of protection and the Israelites were overrun. The Midianites and the Amalekites were coming through the land, taking all of the food and leaving the people with nothing. Israel was outnumbered, hungry, and desperate, so they cried out to God to save them.

What kind of person do you think God would use to save His people? A big, strong warrior? Someone with great courage who trusted God, like David when he went out against Goliath? A great king with a vast army at their side? Nope, not this time. God chose a scared farmer who didn't trust God and had a self-confidence problem. In just this chapter alone, Gideon was afraid of his enemies, his countrymen, his father, and even his God (you can read the rest of the chapter to learn more).

To everyone else, Gideon looked like a coward, but God saw things differently. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, and what did He call him? “You mighty man of valor!” The Lord saw so much more in Gideon than anyone, even Gideon himself, did. God knew that if Gideon could trust Him and lean on His strength, then he could go from hiding from his enemies while doing his work to saving the nation.

Gideon didn't trust the Lord at first and would ask the Lord for signs and proofs to help him believe. In this passage, Gideon brought a food offering and placed it before the Lord, asking Him to prove that it was really God who was speaking to him. The Lord was gracious and brought fire up out of the rock to consume the meat and the bread.

Maybe you feel like you aren't important enough for God to use you. Maybe you think you are too small or young. Gideon shows us that God can and will use anybody to do great things for His Kingdom. You can start serving God right now at home. Today, why don't you write a card or a letter and mail it to someone you care about. Do something kind for your brothers or sisters. Give your mom and dad an hour of quiet time in the house, or maybe do some extra chores to make their day easier.

Gideon, despite his doubts and fears was willing to do what the Lord asked. Let's be willing servants of the Lord today.

Questions for Young Children:

When God called Gideon a mighty man of valor, what was Gideon doing?

What were some of the things that Gideon was afraid of?

What are some ways that God can use us today?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Why did the Lord allow the Midianites to invade and conquer Israel?

When Gideon was afraid and hiding, the Lord called him a mighty man of valor. What does this teach us about the way the Lord sees us?

Gideon struggled to believe that God was calling him. Are there some things that you struggle to believe about God or His Word? Where could we find some answers to those struggles and doubts?