

**Key Truth/Principle**: Great victories are won when we step out in courage & faith empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**Key Verses**: Judges 6:12-32 & 6:36-40

**Suggested Format**: Ice Breaker, Word, Worship with Communion & Prayer

**Key Points**: See ‘Powerpoint’ slides on the hub!

* **WELCOME:** Have fun, involve everyone, keep it moving.
* **WORSHIP:** Deliberately LEAD people into stepping out – most people appreciate specific guidance and feel released to know how to participate  (e.g. let’s read a Psalm together and use the words to help us worship, let’s listen to this song, let’s sing now, let’s have a time of prophecy and hearing from God, if you feel you want to start a song please do). Encourage gifts!
* **PRAYER:** Weave into all you do, respond to things as they come up and help people by being specific (eg let’s all go round and pray short prayers thanking God for a particular characteristic)
* **WORD**: Some folks would not have been there on Sunday – don’t worry too much about recapping, just dive into questions. Splitting people into pairs/small groups with specific questions and a time frame usually brings out the best discussion and involvement of everyone.

**KEY QUESTIONS**

1. What are some of your fears that seem irrational? Why do those things scare you?

2. Read Judges 6:12–16. What’s ironic about how the angel of the Lord addresses Gideon? (The angel calls Gideon a mighty warrior but he’s hiding from his enemies. His actions don’t match God’s description.) What does it say about God that he’d call Gideon by a name that didn’t match his actions?

3. “God doesn’t call the brave, he makes brave the called.” In other words, God calls his people to tasks knowing our weaknesses and need for him. The same goes for Gideon – God knows his lack of bravery and still calls him forward to lead Israel’s army. What difference does it make to your relationship with God to know God fully recognizes your weaknesses yet still calls you to follow him?

4. Instead of answering his questions, God’s messenger clarifies the call God has for Gideon: he’s the one God’s chosen to deliver Israel from Midian. Rather than embracing the call of God and obeying, Gideon again questions God, making excuses for his weakness. What kind of excuses have you given God before? How do they hold up against Him? What might be different about your life if you obeyed God immediately without giving excuses?

5. In your own life, what could be keeping you from stepping out in obedience? What could you do this week to take one step towards obeying Him?