

LIFEGROUP MATERIAL SEPTEMBER 19TH 2021

Judges 6:1-6; 11-16

1 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. **2** Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. **3** Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. **4** They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. **5** They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. **6** Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help... **11** The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. **12** When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." **13** "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." **14** The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" **15** "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." **16** The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."

Key Takeaways

Your life is telling a story.

Use what you have to start telling your story.

Don't let other people write your story for you.

Your story isn't about you. It's about God.

Live a story worth telling.

LifeGroup Questions

- What is your favorite movie? Why?
- In what area of your life do you write your own story? (Money, dating, security, relationships, parenting, marriage, etc...)
- Why do you find it so hard for the One who created you to write your story?
- Do you find it difficult to accept that God should be the main character in your story? Why or why not?
- What irony do you find in verses 11-12?
- Read Judges 6:11-16. Gideon was so shocked that God would call him to be the one to save Israel. He began to make excuses as to why he wasn't qualified. Have you ever made excuses with God about something He is calling you to do?
- What is something that God has called you to do recently that may be uncomfortable?