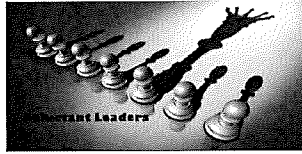


March 2021

## *Church Life*

- If you are a guest with us today, we want to **WELCOME** you! If you haven't done so already, we invite you to stop by our Guest Reception Center in the lobby at the scooter table following the service. Someone will greet you, answer any questions you may have, and give you a gift as a thank-you for worshipping with us today!
- Want to know what is going on at Grace? Weekly, we email out the E-news. The E-news is a sermon summary written by one of our amazing attenders. Please fill out your connection card if you would like to receive this!
- Would you like an opportunity to support **adoptive** and **foster** families? Now is your chance!! Grafted in Grace, a ministry of Grace Chapel, is once again partnering with both Mosaic and Hope Packages to provide resources for foster and adoptive families within our community. Mosaic, located in Zeeland, has a clothing co-op where foster and adoptive families can shop, and Hope Packages works throughout West Michigan to provide backpacks full of essential items for the first night of children entering foster care. Here are the items we would love to collect for these ministries: new socks/undies (kids sizes 2T-14/16), new or gently used jeans boys/girls (sizes 4T-16 kids), gently used Summer clothing (0-16 kids), and new backpacks (regular size for teens). Please drop off your items during any of the services on March 4, 7, 11, and 14. Thank you so much for supporting our community's foster and adoptive families! (Any questions, please email us at [graftedingrace@gracechapelzeeland.com](mailto:graftedingrace@gracechapelzeeland.com))
- Need an encouraging word? Pastor Adam does a daily encouragement and devotion on Facebook Monday - Thursday at 8:00 am. To see this, friend "Adam Jenny Grill" or like the "Grace Chapel Zeeland" Facebook page.
- **Ladies**, Grace is excited to announce an upcoming **women's bible study, Sisters of Grace!** All women of all ages are welcome to join us every other Tuesday evening starting March 30 from 6:45-8 pm. Sisters of Grace will be a 6-week study on Perfect Love, pursuing intimacy with Christ through the Song of Solomon. Please email [Jen@gracechapelzeeland.com](mailto:Jen@gracechapelzeeland.com) if you want to join by March 21st!



March 2021

**God doesn't call the \_\_\_\_\_, He \_\_\_\_\_ the called.**

**Judges 6:1-11**, The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. <sup>2</sup> Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. <sup>3</sup> Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help. <sup>7</sup> When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, <sup>8</sup> he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>9</sup> I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. <sup>10</sup> I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me." <sup>11</sup> 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.

**Are there things in your life that have taken hold of you, things that God never intended for you to be afraid of?**

<sup>12</sup> When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

**When God \_\_\_\_\_ at us, He sees who He \_\_\_\_\_ us to be; not what the world has \_\_\_\_\_ us into being.**

**Judges 6:13-18**, "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." <sup>14</sup> 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?" <sup>15</sup> "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." <sup>16</sup> The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive." <sup>17</sup> Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. <sup>18</sup> Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you."

**God is offering His presence to \_\_, to help \_\_ carry out His purposes.**

**God doesn't call the \_\_\_\_\_, He \_\_\_\_\_ the called.**

**God is the ONLY \_\_\_\_\_ I need.**

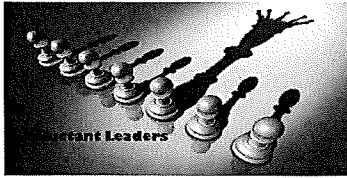
**Judges 6:18b-40**

**Judges 7:1-22**

**Life Application:**

**Will you walk out onto the threshing floor today?**

**Or will you continue to hide in your winepress, locked in fear, refusing the call God has placed on your life?**



### March 7th

#### Reluctant Leaders – Gideon

1. When you consider the people highlighted in the Bible, they were just ordinary people used by God for an extraordinary purpose. Do you believe that God can use you too?
2. Being used by God for His Kingdom is not about being flawless. What is it about?

#### **READ: Judges 6:1-11**

3. Why did this happen to God's people?
4. When you consider that God often said the people did evil and here is the consequence, why do we continue to do so?
5. Impoverished is something 1<sup>st</sup> world countries don't understand very well. Why does it take losing wealth and freedom to suddenly realize what we have lost? Why do we not learn from past mistakes?
6. What do you think this passage tells us about Gideon? Why was he threshing in a winepress?
7. What do most people do when they are afraid?
8. Gideon was not supposed to be afraid of the Midianites! God's people were supposed to drive them out. But fear has taken hold of Gideon. Can you relate to this? Has fear ever taken hold of you?

**KEY QUESTION: Are there things in your life that have taken hold of you, things that God never intended for you to be afraid of?**

#### **READ: Judges 6:12-17**

9. How did the angel address Gideon?  
Why?

**KEY POINT: When God looks at us, He sees who He created us to be; not what the world has reduced us into being.**

10. How did Gideon respond to the angel?
11. How did the angel respond?
12. And how did Gideon respond?
13. Why do we doubt God's ability to do something, anything, big, or small through us?

*A Quote from Pastor Adam... Gideon fails to see himself as God sees him. When Gideon looked in the mirror, he saw someone insignificant. He saw what people said about him, what happened to him in his past, a person who is not good enough. Just like many of us do. We look in the mirror and criticize who is looking back at us. We look in the mirror and just like Gideon, we fail to see the most important thing, God is on our side! And God on our side means Gideon doesn't need to cower in the winepress! With the presence of God, Gideon can become a mighty warrior. God is offering His presence to Gideon for His purposes. Which is the same thing God is offering all of you today!*

**KEY POINT: God is offering His presence to me, to help me carry out His purposes.**

**Don't Miss This:** God didn't call Gideon because he's was the strongest or the most heroic person from the strongest family. God called Gideon precisely because he wasn't any of those things! God called Gideon, because Gideon was so unlikely, and the only explanation possible was that God was working through him!

14. Have you ever considered God can and will use your weakness to do great things?

**KEY POINT: God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.**

**KEY POINT: God is the ONLY credential I need.**

#### **READ: Judges 7:15-22**

15. How does this story end? What does this teach us? Who took care of the details of the victory?
16. Gideon is a lot like us. He has moments of **incredible** faith sandwiched around moments of **doubt** and **fear**. Does that sound familiar?

#### Life Application:

**Will you walk out onto the threshing floor today? Or will you continue to hide in your winepress, locked in fear, refusing the call God has placed on your life?**

