

RIGHT IN THE EYE

RIGHT IN THE EYE, PART 5: EXTRAORDINARY

What kind of person do you want to be? When people have to stand and talk about you when you're gone, what do you want them to say? Do you realize that's up to you? What if you decided to be—**extraordinary**?

BIG IDEA: God wants to do the extraordinary through you because He is with you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing you haven't done that you want to do before you die? Have you taken any steps to do it? Why or why not?
2. Do you think our culture values being extraordinary at something or being an extraordinary person? Explain.
3. Why do you think most people believe they have to accept living an ordinary life?
4. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read Judges 6:1-6.*

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. 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. They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count the men and their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.

Judges 6:1-6

5. Prior to Gideon saving the day, what was the situation in Israel? What did the oppressed and fearful Israelites do? (v. 7) How did God respond? (vv. 7-10) What did the Lord declare to Gideon? How did he respond? What questions did Gideon ask the Lord? What do Gideon's questions reveal about his fears?
6. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read Judges 6:11-16.*

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. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian." 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?" "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

Judges 6:11-16

7. God saw Gideon as a mighty warrior. Gideon saw himself as weak and one of the least. **What are some wrong beliefs about yourself that God is helping you to overcome?** What does God say about you in His Word? What would it look like in your behavior if you believed what God says instead of your feelings, weaknesses or circumstances?
8. In what ways do you find yourself holding God's plans for your life at arm's length? What causes you to do so?
9. What would you do if you were confident God was *with* you, *in* you, and *for* you? What would be different about your life?
10. In what area of your life do you need to ask, "What would an extraordinary person do?" How can this group help you to answer that question?

RIGHT IN THE EYE

GOING DEEPER

1. What promises did God make to Gideon? (*Read Judges 6:12, 14, 16, 22*) Make a list of all the Lord's declarations and promises to Gideon. Which of these promises apply to us today? How difficult is it for you to simply take God at His Word and trust His promises? Why is God's word sometimes not enough to convince us to trust God?
2. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read Judges 6:13-15.*

"But sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian." 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?" "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." Judges 6:13-15
3. What does Gideon's questions reveal about why he lacked trust in God? What circumstances in your life make it difficult for you to trust God?
4. What fleeces (signs) did Gideon put out to test the Lord? When have you tried the "fleece" method of determining God's will? What was the result? Like Gideon, were you tempted to do it again?
5. In one night, Gideon tore down an altar to the false god, Baal, built another and made sacrifices to the true God. What role do you think this played in the defeat of the Midianites? What would you like to "tear down" in your life? What would you like to "build up" to the glory of God?
6. In what way was Gideon just an ordinary guy with common fears and weaknesses? In what ways can you relate to Gideon? Where are you uncertain, cautious or afraid of God's will or calling for your life? What are some of your negative absolutes? In what way are you feeling weak and outnumbered?
7. *With your Bible or the Bible App, read Judges 7-8:1.*
8. Why did God want to reduce the size of Gideon's army? What significance does God's method of selecting the 300 man army have? Why did God have Gideon spy on the enemy's camp? (*vv. 9-12*) How did God confirm for Gideon that he had truly heard from God? What means has God used to encourage and build up your faith?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

You can spend your life doing what you want, when you want, with whom you want like everybody else, but if you do? You'll never become the best version of you. And you will definitely never become all of who God has called you to be. You will never be extraordinary. A relationship with God isn't about staying out of trouble. It's about being extraordinary. Don't settle for ordinary. Don't settle for what everyone else is doing.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

*The Lord answered him, "I will be **with you**, and we will strike down all of the Midianites **together**."*

Judges 6:16