



### Lesson:

This week we started a new series, called “Fearless”, about replacing our fears with faith.

We started off with the definition of fear: Believing in your heart that something you can’t see with your eyes is going to come to pass. We also noted that the definition of faith is exactly the same and discussed that one of the differences between fear and faith is in our thoughts. Negative thoughts lead to fear while positive thoughts lead to faith. We learned that fear does not come from God and our faith in God can replace fear in our lives.

We talked about how the Bible is pretty straight forward in telling us that fear does NOT come from God. We examined 2 Timothy 1:7 which says “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

We then discussed the story of Gideon in Judges 6 & 7 and how God saw more in Gideon than Gideon saw in himself. God needed Gideon to save the Israelites but Gideon doubted he could do it. We learned that doubts are really just fears keeping us from doing the things God asks us to do. We heard about Gideon’s fear being replaced by faith in God and in following God’s instructions he was able to beat 200,000 trained soldiers with only 300 men and without using any weapons or shields.

We said that while we probably have not been called by God to defeat an army lately, there may be other things that God calls us to do such as maybe telling our friend about Jesus or inviting them to Church or maybe befriend somebody who nobody else seems to want to be friends with or live as a role model for others to look up to or even just show somebody that you care about them when no one else seems to care. The enemy will use our fear to keep us from doing God’s work so, just like Gideon, we must replace our fears with faith and trust that God will never set us up to fail and will always prepare us with the strength we need to do what he asks us to do. We learned that faith and fear cannot exist in the same space.

**Next week** we talk about 3 fearless teenage boys who changed the world with their powerful “fire-rated” faith and learn how we too can have faith as strong as theirs.

### Bible Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7

7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (memory verse for the series)

### Bible Verse: Judges 6:2

2 Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds.

### Bible Verse: Judges 6:5

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.

### Bible Verse: Judges 6:11-16

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.”

### Bible Verse: Judges 7:2-7

2 The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’ 3 Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. 4 But the Lord said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you, he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.” 5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.” 6 Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. 7 The Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.”

### Bible Verse: Judges 7:18

18 When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon.’”

### Bible Verse: Judges 7:21-22

21 While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled. 22 When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath.

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