

## FAITH HEROES

# GIDEON



**Memory verse: Judges 6:12 AMPC**

*'The Lord is with you, you mighty man of [fearless] courage.'*

**BIG QUESTION: DO YOU ALWAYS FEEL FEARLESS?**

This week we're starting a series called 'faith heroes', throughout this series we will look at some of the many great men and women of faith from the bible. We'll be looking at their lives and strengthening our own faith through their stories.

One of the key points to learn from this series is that these men and women of faith didn't start life full of faith. In many cases they were more full of fear than faith. Gideon was a man just like that. The first time we hear about this man of faith is when he's hiding in a winepress! In those days the Israelites had started doing evil things so God had given them over to a tribe called the Midianites. When the Israelites would grow crops these midianites would come along and take everything they'd planted. The bible says that they came like locusts and devoured everything! Well, you can imagine how scared the Israelites must have been - they would have been starving. In those days they used a threshing floor to beat wheat to separate the grain from the chaff. This would have been done outside so that when the wind blew it would blow away the chaff and leave the heavier grain behind. So Gideon was beating the wheat in completely the wrong place and it was all because of fear! It's in the middle of this situation that God says to Gideon 'The Lord is with you, you mighty man of [fearless] courage'. There's two main points that I want to bring out of this story today firstly that

God is with us even when we feel scared, so we should trust Him and secondly that God doesn't see us the way that we see ourselves, He sees us as mighty!

### SOMETHING TO DO

Why don't you watch this story animated?

<https://youtu.be/wkJd6tGAXU4>



In Genesis we read how God created the world. He created everything from the sun in the sky to the ant crawling along the ground and then after all of that creation He decided to create humans. God spoke about this when He said 'Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature' (Genesis 1:26-30, MSG). So does that mean that we're like God in the way we physically look? No, because God is spirit. So how can we be like God then? Well, we're like God in our nature, the way we are. We're a bit like mirrors reflecting the image of God to the world. When you look at a mirror, that mirror hasn't become you, it's just your image looking back at you. In the same way we are the image of God. The trouble is that just like Gideon sometimes our circumstances can write names on our mirrors. These could be things that we or other people call us. Things like coward, ugly or loser. Whatever the label is written on your mirror, you are still the image of God and God still sees you as that. In fact, if you let Him, He'll rub out the word coward and call you fearless. He'll cancel out ugly and call you a masterpiece and He'll take away loser and call you a conqueror.

### SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- What label is written on your mirror today?
- In what area of your life do you need to trust God?



### PRAYER

Lord Jesus, please help me to see myself the way you do.  
Amen

'THE LORD IS WITH  
YOU, YOU MIGHTY  
MAN OF [FEARLESS]  
COURAGE.'

Judges 6:12 (AMPC)

