



The Adventure Series:
Living out your Convictions

Judges 6
Sep 13th, 2023

DAILY DEVOTION

Find a rhythm in God's word this week! Follow this 5 day plan on your own or with your group!

<https://my.bible.com/reading-plans/22186>

INSPIRATION

"If it scares you, it might be a good thing to try."
— Seth Godin

"The danger of adventure is worth a thousand days of ease and comfort."
— Paulo Coelho

Then I realized that to be more alive, I had to be less afraid.
So I did it. I lost my fear and gained my whole life.
— Anonymous

"Because in the end, you won't remember the times you spent in the office
or mowing your lawn."
— Jack Kerouac

ICE BREAKER

Tell us about an experience in your life that for you was an adventure. (perhaps travel, starting a business, a relationship, a service project, moving somewhere etc)

DEEP DIVE

Read this out loud
An excerpt from the message this week:



"We want a safe – sanitized life – we really don't want any adventures. Safety is king. No more drinking out of the hose. No more riding our tricycle without a helmet. No more holding onto the bumper of the car and sliding halfway home when it snowed.

I'm not sure how I survived. Being a kid might be the last time we lived an adventurous life. Somewhere we started living in the real world and not taking any chances. Now I am not saying that we should never grow up – but I do think we need to never lose our sense of adventure."

A) Fear and the sense of inadequacy

Read Judges 6:11-15 and then answer the following questions:

6:11) 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."

- 1) When it comes to facing challenges in your life, do you tend to be a 'glass half full' (optimistic – just about full) or a... 'glass half empty' (pessimistic – just about empty) type of person?
Why do you think you've come to view your capacity to handle things that way?

- 2) Of the challenges in your life (i.e. work, family, marriage, relationships, work load, service at church, school, things that are required of you...) where are you finding yourself most feeling like Gideon: not up to the challenge in front of you? Why?

- 3) In most cases, do you think our feelings of inadequacy are actually...
a realistic and honest assessment of ourselves,
or a sign of humility,
or self-pity,
or echoes of critical people who have been in our lives



or an attempt to cushion ourselves in case we crash and burn?
What do you think?

B) Walking with God into an Adventure

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

The nation who had been delivered from their Egyptian masters – after 400 years of slavery – the people who had watched the red sea part – who had been fed by God – and led by God – you would think – they would always stay strong in their faith – but now we see that they had turned – to another god.

The gods they were worshiping at – Baal and Ashera – Baal worship was a constant temptation – time and time again God would send prophets to pull the people back from the worship of Baal. The worship of Baal involved incense – sacrifices and carried to extreme – occasional child sacrifices. Ashera – was the god of fertility – sex – of course they worshiped that God. Prosperity and sex – nothing new there. Of course, you would worship something if you thought it would bring you money and sex.

Read Judges 6:25-30 and then answer the following questions:

6:25) That same night the Lord said to him, “take the second bull from your father’s herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father’s alter to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. 26) Then build a proper kind of alter to the Lord your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering.” 27) So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the townspeople, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.

28) In the morning when the people of the town got up, there was Baal’s alter, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar! 29) They asked each other, “Who did this?” When they carefully investigated, they were told, “Gideon son of Joash did it.” 30) The people of the town demanded of Joash, “Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal’s altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.”

- 4) Can you remember something you had to do, that really scared you at the time? Tell us about that.



- 5) How do you tend to approach these uncomfortable situations? Do you just run and dive right into the deep end or do you start at the shallow end and painfully work your way in slowly? Why do you think to take that approach?

- 6) Gideon and his servants did all his destruction and rebuilding in the middle of the night rather than in broad daylight. Do you see this as kind of a cowardly way to do God's work, or wise? Why?

C) Having no other gods.

Read this out loud

An excerpt from the message this week:

Jesus would later say – we are to love God with ALL our heart – with ALL of our mind and ALL of our strength. That word all doesn't leave any room for other things to give direction to my life.

You will be tempted to include other gods. They sure look pretty. They look fun. They look cool.

In our neck of the woods, we worship the god of money – we worship the god of power – we worship the god of our children.

Jesus warns us against anything that wants to take the place of Him.

We tend to make our kids gods. We tend to put them first – sometimes even above God. By the way – your kids will always like it if you put them first. They want to be there. And once they taste that – they do not want to let it go.

I do see a lot of worship of kids. There is nothing wrong with believing in your kid – being proud of your kid – giving them nice things...not saying that you can't be involved – but it seems that we push God out and make an altar that looks like our kids.

- 7) While we may not have wooden idols we bow down to, there are still many things that come to rival God's rightful place in our lives. What have become those things in your life these days? (Children, hobbies, work, a person etc.)



- 8) Yes, it is hard to know exactly how to “put God first” in our lives. We have responsibilities in life that take time and energy. And we need time to unwind with hobbies and interests considering the stress so many of us are under. But in this environment where we live, what can you do to actually put God first?

NEXT STEPS

Wake up in church:

It easy to get lulled into the routine of mindlessly attending church and just going through the motions as just a spectator. Instead, this week do your best to pay attention to the words of the songs to check if we really mean what we're singing and in your mind interact with God expressing thanks and appreciation for what comes to mind as the service goes along.

PRAYER

Spend some time praying asking for God's involvement in the important things in your life these days.

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- BENSON - Serve with us at ABIDE every 2nd Saturday.
- MILLARD - Serve with us at Heartland Hope every 4th Saturday.
- FREMONT - Serve with us at LifeHouse every 3rd Saturday.
- OMAHA - Serve with us at Open Door Mission every 4th Saturday.
- Or get to know your community, are there any needs/volunteer opportunities?