

XXXIX

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX: Judges - Part 2

Main Idea

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by fear—paralyzed, uncertain, or even questioning where God is in the middle of it all? The story of Gideon in Judges 6 is a powerful reminder that fear doesn't disqualify us from being used by God—it's often the very place He meets us.

Gideon was hiding in a winepress, afraid of his enemies, when the angel of the Lord called him a “mighty warrior.” It didn't make sense—not to Gideon, not given his circumstances. But God saw more in him than Gideon saw in himself. Even as Gideon wrestled with insecurity, anger, and a desire for control, God patiently called him forward, promising His presence every step of the way.

Fear has a way of distorting our vision—making us believe lies, rely on our own strength, or shrink back from what God is asking us to do. But faith gives us the courage to stand our ground, pray with boldness, reject the lies of the enemy, and trust God even when the odds feel stacked against us.

As we open this discussion, let's be honest about the fears we carry. Let's explore what it means to move from fear to faith, and let's remember: our future is on the other side of our fear. Let's lean in and allow God to speak strength and courage into our hearts today.

When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise - in God I trust and am not afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me? PSALM 56:3-4

Make It Practical

When Fear Shows Its Ugly Head...

- Stand Your Ground: Don't run from fear—stand firm in God's promises. He is fighting for you, even when the battle feels impossible. (Exodus 14:13-14)
- Pray for Peace: Take your fear to God. Prayer realigns our hearts and invites the peace of God to guard us from anxiety. (Philippians 4:6-7)
 - The Prayer to Peace:
 - Prayer – Here's what's going on.
 - Petition – Here's what I'd love You to do.
 - Thanksgiving – I thank You in advance.
- Object to Lies: Fear often feeds on lies. But God gives us the authority to reject thoughts that don't line up with His truth. (2 Corinthians 10:5)
- Trust in God: Faith isn't the absence of fear—it's choosing to trust God in the middle of it. When we're afraid, we can anchor ourselves in His Word and His faithfulness. (Psalm 56:3-4)

Talk About It

Gideon was called a “mighty warrior” while he was hiding in fear.

- What does this reveal about how God sees us versus how we often see ourselves? Have you ever felt unqualified or afraid when God called you to something? (Judges 6:12)

Fear often shows up as anger, insecurity, or a desire for control.

- Which of these emotions do you most relate to when you’re feeling afraid, and how do you usually respond? (Judges 6:15)

Gideon asked for a sign to be sure it was really God speaking.

- Have you ever asked God for confirmation about something? What does Gideon’s story teach us about God’s patience and grace when we wrestle with doubt? (Judges 6:17-18)

**It is time to fight because our future
is on the other side of our fear.**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for meeting us in our fear and calling us forward in faith. Like You did with Gideon, remind us that You see more in us than we see in ourselves. Help us to stand our ground, pray with confidence, reject the lies of the enemy, and trust fully in You. We surrender our fears to You today and ask for the courage to walk in obedience, even when it’s hard. Strengthen our hearts and fill us with peace that only comes from Your presence.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Next Steps

Identify Your “Winepress”

- Reflect on where fear might be causing you to hide or play it safe. What area of your life do you feel stuck or small? Ask God to meet you there and call you forward in courage.

Name the Fear and Speak Truth to It

- Write down one specific fear you’re facing this week. Then find a Scripture that speaks directly to it (such as Psalm 56:3-4 or 2 Corinthians 10:5) and declare that truth daily.

Practice the “Prayer to Peace” Model

- Start a habit of praying through Prayer, Petition, and Thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6-7) every time fear or anxiety begins to creep in. Let prayer be your first response, not your last resort.

Take One Bold Step of Faith

- Is there something God has been nudging you to do that you’ve been hesitant about? Maybe it’s a conversation, a new responsibility, or letting go of something that’s holding you back. Take one step this week, trusting that God is with you.

Encourage Someone Else Who’s Struggling With Fear

- Fear is something we all wrestle with. Reach out to someone who may need encouragement and remind them of God’s presence and promises—just as Gideon needed reassurance.