

Personal Care Items

We are always collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

This Week's Bible Verse

Judges 6:14-16

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."

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A few Sundays ago we reviewed our lesson about not keeping our own limits on our faith in what God can do and also on what we can do with God.

We looked at how our own fear is often what keeps us from stepping out of our "comfort zone" and is what causes us to get stuck and unable to grow.

We said that faith is what allows us to overcome our fear. When we make God a bigger part of our life, our fear becomes less. Faith and Fear cannot exist together.

We reviewed how David's faith in God allowed him to beat the giant warrior, Goliath, with no fear. David's focus was not on Goliath's size and strength but was completely on what God would do through him.

We then took a look at another young man, named Gideon, who's faith was maybe not quite up to what it should have been.

We looked through **Judges 6** to see that the negative actions of the Israelite people had led them into being oppressed by the powerful Midianites. so much so that they found themselves in fear for their lives and hiding in caves.

We found Gideon threshing wheat while hiding inside a wine press for fear the Midianites would steal it from him. After years of this, the Israelites called out to God to save them.

So, God sent an Angel to this terrified young man hiding in a wine press and the Angel addressed him as a **Mighty Warrior**. He also told Gideon to go in the strength he had and save Israel from the Midianites.

Of course, Gideon certainly didn't consider himself a Mighty Warrior and there was no way he was thinking he could defeat Midian and save the Israelites. He spent the rest of the chapter making excuses and challenging the Angel for proof that He was who He said He was.

We said that Gideon used his own senses and saw himself through the world's eyes, in his current circumstances, and was choosing to allow fear to keep him from doing what God needed him to do.

But, God saw Gideon just as He created him to be as a Mighty Warrior who will, with God's help, save the Israelites from the Midianites. But first, God needed Gideon to believe it and to have faith over his fear so

that God could use him to save the Israelites not only from the Midianites but from themselves as well.

We then asked what our own lives may look like if we just saw ourselves the way God sees us.

Well, eventually, the Angel was able to prove who He was to Gideon and was able to convince him to take on beating the Midianite army.

But, God still needed to work on Gideon's faith, along with the rest of the Israelites. If God allowed Gideon and his army to just beat the Midianite army, they would claim that THEY did it, not God.

In **Judges 7**, we saw God reduce Gideon's army to just 300 men to fight against 200,000 trained soldiers. Not only that, instead of weapons and shields, Gideon and his men were armed only with ram's horns, clay pots, and torches.

Gideon and his men, now stronger in their faith, followed God's instructions exactly and beat the Midian army, just as God said they would.

We remembered what had gotten the Israelites into the circumstances they were in. They had removed God from their every day lives. Then when things went bad (very bad) they focused on their fears instead of focusing on God.

God needed them to know that He did not give them a spirit of fear (**2 Timothy 1:7**) and when they have faith and trust in Him, do what He asks, and do things His way, He will always bring victory in the end.

He needed them to know, and needs us to know, that the bigger part He is in our life and the more faith we have in him, the less our fears will be.

With his faith in God, Gideon was able to overcome his fear and not only beat the Midianites but also become the **Mighty Warrior** that God created him to be.

We said that whenever you find that fear is keeping you from moving forward in the amazing life that God created you to live, know that God is always with you and choose to have faith in Him over your fear.

1 Youth: Coffee Q&A With Michelle
Grades 7-12

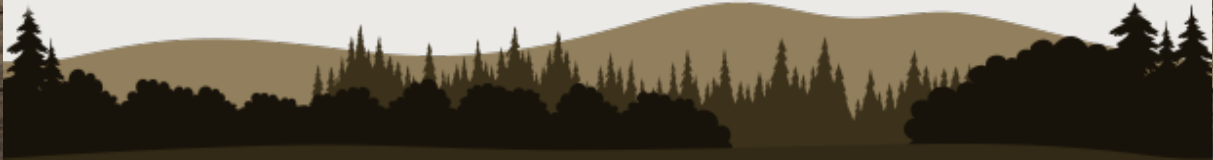


Sundays at 9:00am in the Youth Room

Sundays at 9:00am

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your

friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.



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