



INTRODUCTION

Timeline—Part 7

We all love stories. They make us feel like we are a part of something bigger than ourselves. They can stir the imagination and engage the heart. They motivate us, influence us, and have the unique ability to build connections. So, it's no wonder that the Bible is the most beloved book of all time!

In this series, Timeline, we'll explore the stories that span 4,000 years of biblical history, from Genesis to Malachi. As we focus on some of the most beloved stories in the Old Testament, we'll discover that in every story the overarching theme is God's desire to have a relationship with us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever felt God wanted you to do something, but you were afraid? What happened?
2. Read Judges 6:11-16. Why do you think Gideon had so much trouble with the assignment God was giving him? Can you relate to the arguments Gideon raised with God? What other reasons might we have to refuse to do something God wants us to do?
3. Read Judges 6:17-24 and 6:36-40. Why do you think Gideon wanted to see signs before he would obey? Have you ever asked God for a sign? What are some reasons why asking for a sign may not be a good idea (see Matthew 12:39)?
4. Read Judges 7:1-8. Why is it important God gets the glory when we serve him?
5. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

Do you ever get the feeling you're supposed to do something, but you're simply too afraid to do it? Maybe you feel a nudge to help someone, but you are scared to get involved in a situation. Perhaps you need to stand up for yourself, but fear how the recipient will react. Or you even think you should ask for forgiveness for something you've done, but feel too ashamed.

We can all relate to that feeling—when we believe God is leading us to do something that we are afraid to do. We feel we aren't capable enough, strong enough, or brave enough to do what he asks. We hesitate and wait for a "sign" that it's right. Because God is always with us, we don't need to be scared. If we turn to God and place our trust in his plans for us, we can become stronger and more courageous. Before God asks us to do things that take a lot of courage, sometimes he'll even give us opportunities to do smaller things that can build our courage. We need to follow God's lead, because if God is for us, who can be against us?

KEY VERSES (HCSB)

Judges 6:1-40
Judges 7:1-14
Romans 5:1
Romans 8:31
Matthew 12:39