

Look at *Judges 6:14 [NLT]*

Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

Use three words to describe how Gideon might have felt when he heard what God wanted him to do. [\[Allow time for responses.\]](#)

Look at *Judges 6:24 [NLT]*

And Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means "the Lord is peace"). The altar remains in Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer to this day.

What in your life helps you remember who God is and how God has protected you and provided for you? [\[Allow time for responses.\]](#)

When we need courage, it helps to know we aren't alone. When we know God is with us, we can have a supercharged approach to the challenges we face. That was true for Gideon. Once he decided to obey God's directions, he still experienced fear, but he knew he wasn't alone.

2. It takes courage to stand up for God

When in your life have you needed courage to stand up for God?

[\[Leader: share a story about when you needed courage.\]](#)

Look at *Judges 6:25-27 [NLT]*

That night the Lord said to Gideon, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one that is seven years old. Pull down your father's altar to Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole standing beside it. Then build an altar to the Lord your God here on this hilltop sanctuary, laying the stones carefully. Sacrifice the bull as a burnt offering on the altar, using as fuel the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down." So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord had commanded. But he did it at night because he was afraid of the other members of his father's household and the people of the town.

How would you explain the mix of fear and courage Gideon displayed in this passage? Be specific. [\[Allow time for responses.\]](#)

Why do you think God commanded Gideon to destroy an idol's altar and build another one for the Lord? [\[Allow time for responses.\]](#)

As Gideon obeyed God, he saw God continue to work in several ways. How can God's faithfulness fill you with more courage to stand up for God?

Even though Gideon—in his fear—destroyed Baal's altar at night, he still obeyed God's command. God often waits for us to be courageous and trust Him before He shows us what He's going to do. God was preparing Gideon for the huge assignment that was ahead: saving the Israelites. Then, God asked Gideon to take an even bigger step of courage—to battle the Midianites with a very small army.

3. It takes courage to trust God's plan

Do you find it easy or difficult to trust other people? Why? [\[Allow time for responses.\]](#)

Look at [Judges 7:2-7 \[NLT\]](#)

The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength. Therefore, tell the people, 'Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go home.'" So 22,000 of them went home, leaving only 10,000 who were willing to fight. But the Lord told Gideon, "There are still too many! Bring them down to the spring, and I will test them to determine who will go with you and who will not." When Gideon took his warriors down to the water, the Lord told him, "Divide the men into two groups. In one group put all those who cup water in their hands and lap it up with their tongues like dogs. In the other group put all those who kneel down and drink with their mouths in the stream." Only 300 of the men drank from their hands. All the others got down on their knees and drank with their mouths in the stream. The Lord told Gideon, "With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home."

What's your reaction to how many warriors Gideon wanted to take to the battle and how many God told him to take? Why? [\[Allow time for responses.\]](#)