

AN UNLIKELY HERO (JUDGE GIDEON)

Judges 6:11–16; 7:1–8

Judges 6:15–16

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

"But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together." **Judges 6:15–16**

Tall and lanky, he was an awkward 14-year-old. He didn't think of himself as being special, much less noticed in the hallways at school. He wasn't particularly good at sports, or anything for that matter. He was just . . . average.

One day, while reading a Bible a friend had given him, God captured his imagination. He found himself on his knees beside his bed, committing his life to Christ. He wanted his life to count for something. He wanted it to count for Christ. God grew this young man into an instrument that could be used for His purposes. Through this virtual "nobody," God started churches, which in turn started other churches. These churches reached people around the world, touching many souls in the name of Christ.

Read Judges 6:11–16; 7:1–8. God singled out a man who called himself "the least" in his family (v.15). But the angel

of the Lord identified him as a "mighty warrior" (v.12), and through God's power, that is exactly what He intended to make of Gideon. Notice how God identified him for what he was to become. When God identifies us for what we are to become, it is as good as done.

Teenagers need encouragement. Often they feel insignificant, especially at those awkward stages in life. We can help them see that God sees them for something much more than what they see in themselves. He is able to take the most ordinary lives and turn them into extraordinary lives through His power. Gideon, David, and so many of Jesus' disciples are perfect examples. We can trust God to powerfully use our lives when our hearts are bent toward Him.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

The teenagers in the family conduct an interview with their parents, asking: **What are your memories of being in Jr. High/High School? What were the styles? What music was popular then? Were you noticed at school, or "invisible"? Did you have any special gifts or talents? What was your spiritual life like? What were the plans you thought God might have for you? Did you follow through? What were your victories? What were your regrets?**

Explore . . .

First, family members share in reading Judges 6:11–16; 7:1–8. Then, the family draws a comparison of how they think of themselves and what Gideon thought of himself when God called him. A family member asks: **What is the significance of the angel of the Lord identifying Gideon as a mighty warrior before it had happened?**

Transform . . .

The family discusses: **How might God take an ordinary life and use it to do extraordinary things? How much do you believe He can do this with your life? How willing would you be to do what God asks if He were to reveal to you today what He intends for your life?**

Pray together that your family members will see themselves as very special by God, as instruments He can use in any way at any time. Pray that your family members will respond in obedience.