

**AVELEIGH'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE**  
**COMMUNION, INSTALLATION, ORDINATION AND MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY**  
**1/7/2018**  
**SERMON: GIDEON, SIGNIFICANT LIFE**  
**Text, Judges 6:11-16 p. 259-60**

**Learn the lesson of Gideon, to live a significant life you must.....**

**1. DISCOVER YOU'RE YOUR IDENTITY**

*"Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, 'Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!'"* Judges 6:11b-12 (NLT)

**ALLOW YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES TO DICTATE YOUR IDENTITY**

OR

**ACCEPT WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE**

**2. COMMIT TO YOUR ACTION**

*"'Sir,' Gideon replied, 'if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The LORD brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites.' Then the LORD turned to him and said, 'Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!'"* Judges 6:13-14 (NLT)

**Wait for strength YOU DO NOT HAVE**  
OR

**Go in the strength YOU HAVE**

**3. DETERMINE YOUR CAPACITY**

Rely on **YOUR STRENGTHS**

OR

Watch God use **YOUR WEAKNESSES**

*"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.'"*  
Judges 7:2 (NLT)

#### 4. GOD'S PROCESS FOR USING OUR WEAKNESSES TO BRING HIM GLORY:

*"So David defeated the Philistine with only a sling and a stone."*

1 Samuel 17:50a (NCV)

*"'Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?'. . . Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish."*

John 6:9, 11 (NIV)

*"The LORD told Gideon, 'With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home.'" Judges 7:7 (NLT)*

1. God REDUCES our resources
2. God MAGNIFIES our needs
3. Until someone TRUSTS God with what little they have
4. God USES the little we have to show how great He is

*"'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. . . For when I am weak, then I am strong."* 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV)

*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."*

2 Corinthians 4:7-9 (NIV)

5. God INCLUDES through us to accomplish his will.

*"'But Lord,' Gideon replied, 'how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!' The LORD said to him, 'I will be with you.'" Judges 6:15-16a (NLT)*

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Call TO Worship

SEE ORDINATION – INSTALLATION SERVICE

PRAYER OF CONFESSIO INSERT FOLLOWING SERMON

Holy God, you are the great inviter, always extending a welcome to us. We respond with caution, fearful of what may be required of us. We respond with narrow delight, hoping the invitation is only for us and not for "them." We respond hesitantly, not trusting or believing that you really want and invite us. We respond with excuses, waiting to make a full commitment, waiting to give more until we feel ready.

Tender God, release us from the grip of our fears and guilt. Enable us to respond to your invitation to pray, to give, to serve. Make us open to receiving what you give and to risking something new for you. And help us to follow the example of Jesus in all areas of our lives. Amen.