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PRAYER

Lord, thank you that you have made us all for a purpose. Thank you that as we journey with you, your peace pours in and through all parts of our hearts, minds, and spirits. We pray for the boldness and faith to believe who it is you have called us to be, in Jesus' name, Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

What is the best job you ever had? Why did you like it so much?



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WORD

¹¹ Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor." ¹³ And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."¹⁴ And the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?"¹⁵ And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."¹⁶ And the Lord said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."¹⁷ And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. ¹⁸ Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay till you return."

¹⁹ So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. ²⁰ And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. ²¹ Then the angel of the Lord reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the Lord vanished from his sight. ²² Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the Lord the Lord face to face." ²³ But the Lord said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." ²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and called it, The Lord Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

JUDGES 6:11-24

► GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

- 1. What comes to mind when you think of the words, 'Peace' and 'Calling'? Do you think they relate to each other?
- 2. In verse 12, the angel declares, "The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor." The angel is calling Gideon something that he is not yet. Why do you think this is?
- 3. In verse 15, Gideon not only points to his own shortcomings, but also to his family's! He is making a multigenerational case to God that he is not up to what is being asked of him. Being born again as a follower of Christ means that you are born into a royal line with his Holy Spirit in you. Do you hold this as your identity? If so, how does this change the way you live? If not, what can you do to remind yourself?
- 4. Read verse 19-20 and then only come back to this question (STOP HERE AND READ). Did you take note of how much food Gideon made? A young goat is enough for a party. He makes bread from an Ephah (pronounced 'ee-far') of flour, which is 35 litres! The broth filled an entire pot! This cooking would have taken a very long time! Was he a proud chef or a procrastinator?
 - Do you think you procrastinate when it comes to God? If so, how can you overcome this?
 - Do you think procrastination can be a thief or a comfort blanket of peace?
- 5. In verse 13, Gideon is presenting an inaccurate version of the facts. He is doing this because it can be very uncomfortable to face the reality of fruit from sin in our lives. Have you ever found yourself blaming God for your circumstances in this same way?

Let's pair up and pray for repentance where we have believed lies and made judgements towards God. It is through repentance that we receive God's peace, forgiveness, and healing.