

# RENAMED

*Gideon: Fear to Courage | Teacher: Libin Abraham*  
*Sermon Questions for 6.21.2026*

## OPENER

Libin opened with a Father's Day reflection on the question many dads ask themselves: 'Am I enough?' He shared a story of his toddler shattering a glass vase at a fancy dinner, and his first instinct was to hide rather than comfort the child. Many of us know that impulse. It is exactly where we find Gideon: hiding underground in a winepress, afraid and wondering if God is even there. Yet this is precisely where God shows up.

## READ

Judges 6:11-16; 6:25-27; 7:2; 8:4, 27 | 2 Corinthians 4:6-9

## MAIN POINTS

### 1. Hiding

Gideon threshes wheat underground, afraid the Midianites will take his harvest. Two questions reveal his doubt: 'Where is God?' and 'Who am I?' These twin doubts are often the source of our hiding.

### 2. Called

God appears and calls Gideon 'valiant warrior' right in the winepress. He sees us by our calling, not our condition, and his answer to all of Gideon's questions is simply: 'I will be with you.'

### 3. Obedience

Gideon's first mission is to tear down his father's altar to Baal at home. He obeys afraid, doing it at night. Courage is not the absence of fear; it is trusting God enough to act while still afraid.

### 4. New Name

He is renamed Jerubbaal ('Let Baal contend with him'). Every day he carried that name was proof Baal could not defend himself. His obedience began reshaping the faith of those around him, including his own father.

### 5. Courage

God reduces Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300 so the victory will be undeniably his. God reduces our resources so we discover our Source. Armed with clay jars, torches, and trumpets, the 300 win because God is behind it.

### 6. Warning

After the victory, Gideon's gold ephod becomes an idol. The man who tore down altars ends up building one. Yesterday's victory can become tomorrow's temptation when the gift quietly replaces the Giver.

## ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- Have you ever had a moment where your instinct was to hide from shame or failure? What triggered it?
- Gideon doubted God and himself. Which question feels more personal right now: 'Where is God?' or 'Who am I?'
- God called Gideon 'valiant warrior' while he was hiding. Is there an identity God is speaking over you that you haven't fully accepted yet?
- Gideon's first battle was internal, tearing down idols at home. What might need to come down in your own life before you can step forward?
- Gideon obeyed afraid, doing it at night. What is one step of obedience you've been waiting to take until you feel more ready?
- God reduced Gideon's army so the glory would clearly be his. Where might God be reducing something in your life to deepen your dependence on him?

## BOTTOM LINE

**Courage is not having no fear; it is having more trust in God than in your fear. You are a clay jar carrying the treasure of Christ, and God loves to use weak, willing people so that the victory is undeniably his.**