

## Judges 6:11–17 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." <sup>13</sup> 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." <sup>14</sup> 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?" <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." <sup>17</sup> 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.

## Hebrews 11:32-34 (ESV)

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—
<sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

## **1 – GIDEONS IDENTITY**

Read Judges 6:11-12. Why was Gideon in the winepress? Why did the angel call Gideon a *"mighty man of valor"* when he was just found in hiding?

Read Judges 6:13. How do you think people resonate with this verse right now? In verse 14 how does God give ownership of the situation back to Gideon?

In Judges 6:15 what reason does Gideon give to say he's the wrong person to use? What excuses do we use before God?

## 2 - WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT US

Nathan said; "you and I will either live up-to or down-to believe to be true about yourself". What labels have been placed on you, that you've accepted, that have limited your walk with God?

Nathan also said; "God gave you and I life and is the only one who has authority to define you. God's truth is unshifting and doesn't change". Why do the labels that the others or ourselves give to us seem to stick more than what God says?

Nathan gave this list of identities that scripture gives to us; accepted, loved, adopted, forgiven, a child of God, a friend of Jesus, saved by grace, chosen, complete, redeemed, rescued, cared for, blessed, healed, eternal, a new person, a masterpiece, an heir, a temple, declared not guilty, not condemned, made right with God, led by the Spirit, being transformed, a coworker with God, part of the church, strong in the Lord, victorious, and an overcomer. Which of these is the hardest to place on yourself? How would your journey have been different if you lived in the truth of these?