Scripture is full of stories of lives—unsung heroes whose actions and sacrifices failed to win them worldly . Yet, these great lives reveal significant people who God was able to , and whose lives counted for something great.

Despite what the world tells us, we don’t need to be a powerful, prominent, or rich to have . Glitz and glamour may be all the rage in our culture, however, in the kingdom of God, is far more important than prominence and more important than quantity.

“In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.” (Judges 21:25)

The Book of Judges records a cycle of that spanned 300 years.

“The Israelites did evil in the Lord’s sight. So the Lord handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east would attack Israel, camping in the land and destroying crops as far away as Gaza. They left the Israelites with nothing to eat, taking all the sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys.” (Judges 6:1-4)

When we think of a hero, we usually think of , strength, intellect, and . Gideon was an guy with no political ambitions or dreams of becoming a military leader. Yet God had different and plans for his life.

3 LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM THE LIFE OF GIDEON

Lesson #1: If we want to live a life of significance, we need to discover our God-given .

“It all starts with—we have to know who we are before we can do what God created us to do.

2 WAYS TO DETERMINE OUR IDENTITY

• We can look at our . Gideon in the winepress is picture of someone who has lost site of his , and has allowed his to determine his identity.

Gideon wasn’t living up to his God-given identity or potential—his was to be a Judge over Israel, yet he was hiding in fear.

Can you think of time in your life, when you pulled a Gideon and hid? If we let our circumstances to tell us who we are, we’ll be because our circumstances are constantly .

No matter how hard we try, we can’t from God. No matter where we run or where we hide, God always !

“Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?” (Psalm 139:7)

• We can listen to what says about us.

Gideon had a choice—he could either trust his own or he could trust God. He could allow his circumstances to define him or he could let God define him.

Gibbor =

God sees past Gideon’s ; past his fear and uncertainty; past what the world sees, to Gideon’s—to his ; to who he truly is; to what He wants to do in and through his life.

As long as you let your identity be determined by your circumstances, you’ll never live up to your full . It can only be found in God’s view of you.
Lesson #2: If we want to live a life of significance, we have to be willing to __________.

“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)

Gideon gets so caught up in his circumstances; in what’s __________; in what he doesn’t have—that he becomes __________ and is unable to act. And so, he responds to the angel’s greeting by letting __________ have it!

In his frustration and hopelessness, Gideon completely misses the fact that God wants to use him to be the __________ to everything he’s complaining about.

Two things contributed to Gideon’s cowardice: __________ and __________.

Have you ever focused on what you didn’t have and become so paralyzed you were unable to act?

Instead of waiting for the strength we don’t have, we need to go in the strength we do __________.

“Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!” (Judges 6:14)

If we had everything we needed, it wouldn’t be __________, it would be __________ __________.

God is much more concerned about our __________—about using us, in spite of what we don’t have—than giving us everything we think we need.

“So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Lesson #3: If we want to live a life of significance, we have to let God use our __________ ________ ________ for His glory.

“‘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. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.’” (Judges 6:15-16)

Gideon was quick to respond to the angel that he didn’t think he had what it __________ to be a leader, let alone a general who could lead the Israelite army in a battle against their enemies.

Gideon was very aware of his __________. So much so, that he was __________ by them.

What he wasn’t aware of, was how God could __________ his weaknesses not only to bring victory, but also for His __________.

Weakness = any place in our lives where it’s evident that we don’t have the __________ to do what God has called us to do.

“Each time he said, ‘My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.’ So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me...For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Our strengths tend to __________ us away from God; however, our weaknesses draw us __________ His strength. No matter how much or how little we think we have, nothing can compare to God’s __________.

What weakness in you might God be able use for His glory?

“The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:28-31)

The story of Gideon is all about God making a __________ of the most unlikely person.

And God promises to do the __________ thing for us!