

Introduction:

Each day, God calls us to follow him. And his call is not disingenuous or hollow: God equips us to be used and calls us, through Jesus, to be his friend and coworker. We have a real opportunity each day to take a step closer to him; a step closer to his *Promised Land*. Taking these steps is not always easy and the world we live in is not always encouraging, but God has made a way.

Scripture:

Judges 6:11-12 — “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!’”

Deuteronomy 31:6 — “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.”

For More, Read & Discuss 1 Peter 4

Discussion Questions:

1. Share a time when you felt like God worked through you to accomplish something.
2. In Judges 6, Gideon is operating out of fear, doing meaningless work at the bottom of a winepress when God comes and calls Gideon a “mighty hero.” The simple act of hearing God speak his identity seems to alter the course of Gideon’s life. Why do you think identity plays such a major role in Gideon’s turnaround?
 - How does your identity or the way you perceive yourself affect your daily life?
3. As followers of Jesus, we have an identity: You are redeemed, valuable, and important. You are empowered, gifted, and wanted. You are favored, unique, and secure. You are loved.
 - Which piece of your true identity in Christ is the easiest for you to remember & embrace?
 - Which is most difficult for you to accept?
4. Like Gideon, you have been pursued by God, but if you are going to move from being pursued to being used, you have to make yourself available. Is there an area of your life that you could make more available to God?
5. Left to our own devices, we will always drift away from God. For you, maybe being more available means being more intentional. Where have you been drifting? How could you be more intentional?

Take the Next Step:

If we follow Jesus, he should be the source of our identity and that identity should make us different. Are you different? What step can you take this week to step out of hiding and into the identity and calling that God has given you?