

Alley Rundown—June 19th-21st, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Use Somebody (Gideon) • Judges 6–8

Today's Key Question: How could God use you?

Today's Bottom Line: God can use you no matter what.

Monthly Memory Verse: *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.* Psalm 27:13 (NIV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

“Hey, everyone! Glad to see you all here today. Question time: Have you ever seen a show or a movie with a superhero and thought, ‘Well, of course, that person has confidence! Look at them! They are literal super heroes!’ I mean, their arms are bigger than my head, and they have more muscles on their left pinky than I have on my whole body. When you’re big and strong like Thor or Hulk, being a superhero doesn’t seem like it would be all that hard.”

“That’s why I’m thankful for the stories about underdogs, like Peter Parker or Miles Morales. You know, they’re kind of strange and awkward at times, maybe even picked on or overlooked. But then something extraordinary happens and they become someone that NO ONE expected. Sure, it may take a radioactive spider bite, but those are just details!”

“We love underdog stories because we love to see others do what seems to be out of reach. And a lot of times, we can relate to them more than to the actual superheroes.”

“But it makes me wonder, can real-life underdogs succeed, or is that just in the movies? Chances are high that we’ll never get bitten by a radio-active spider and end up with super-human strength and spider-sense. When I’m feeling like an underdog, winning might feel more than just out of reach—it feels completely impossible. So what, then? How can we move forward with confidence when we can’t guarantee we’ll succeed?”

“That’s a great question. Actually, it’s a question people have thought about for thousands of years, including some people we read about in the Bible. Remember, when you have a big question about life, the best place to check first is the Bible. We can find all sorts of people who had experiences with God. And then God prompted them to write down those experiences so we could read and learn from them.”

“Our story today is all about someone who wondered if he was the right person for the job—a true underdog story. His name was Gideon. We find his story in the Old Testament book of Judges. Judges tells the story of a pretty dark time in the nation of Israel’s history. It was a time when God’s people often turned away from worshipping and following God and soon found the enemies around them causing them trouble. The people of Israel would then cry out to God, and He would send a deliverer to rescue them. This happened over and over again.”

“During this particular time of trouble for Israel, a powerful and wicked nation called Midian became a real problem. It was so bad that God’s people were hiding in caves and holes in the mountains. Every time God’s people came out of hiding, the Midianites would attack them.”

“God chose an Israelite named Gideon to lead the charge against them. Check this out!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:00)

"I imagine that Gideon probably thought there was NO WAY things would end the way they did when God shrunk his army down from 32,000 to 300! But you know what I think Gideon thought was even more unbelievable? That God would use *him*. Gideon was pretty unsure about God using him, and yet, God called Gideon a mighty warrior before any of the rest of the story took place!"

"Maybe God knew more than Gideon about how God could use him."

"Are we ever like Gideon? Or do you ever have Gideon moments? Maybe you get a part in the school play and you start to second guess how you'll learn all those lines. Or maybe you're on the free throw line with seconds on the clock and everyone watching as you prepare to take your shot. It's easy to think you're the wrong person for the job. Or maybe your friend is struggling, and you feel like you should help but are afraid you'll make things worse. You wish there was another person who would help.

"What Gideon forgot was that it wasn't about the size of his army. He was able to be a 'mighty warrior' because God promised to be with him. Confidence isn't about being the best of the best or having the most of the most. We can have true confidence because we know who we are and, more importantly, who God is. And we know that we can trust God no matter what."

"Today as you head to Small Groups, think about this:"

SLIDE: Key Question Slide

"How could God use you? In other words, think about how God made you. What are some big or even small ways God might be looking to use you? It's okay if you're not sure how you'd answer that question. We're all learning how God can use us to make a difference in the world. Thankfully, you have a great Small Group Leader who can help you think through it some more. Before you head out, let's talk to God and ask Him to help us understand how He can use us. Let's pray."

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING:

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here's a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering, you can bring it up now as we dismiss to Small Groups.

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri

New Lenox: Daniel

Homer Glen: Victor