

re[**new**]

WEEK 2

This weekly devotional will shine a spotlight on biblical characters that teach us about renewal, discernment and moving forward. The highlights of their faithfulness, leadership and service illuminate us and make us better.

SPOTLIGHT ON GIDEON

Gideon is a faithful, mighty warrior and known as one of the “good” judges (with a few flaws) found in the book of Judges. This week we will learn how the Lord reduces Gideon’s troops from 32,000 to 300 to defeat the Midianites. These are strange tactics for a military leader.

CENTER STAGE The Story of Gideon – Judges 6:11 – 8:35

How does the Lord call Gideon? (Judges 6:11-27)

What does Gideon get right? (Judges 6:28-35)

What does his new name “Jerubbaal” mean?

How does Gideon test the Lord? (Judges 6:36-40)

How does the Lord use Gideon to fulfill his purpose? (Judges 7:1 - 8:21)

What goes well and what doesn’t go well with Gideon? (Judges 8:22-35)

What does Gideon bring with him? What becomes completely new? (Judges 7:1-25)

How does the Lord re[**new**] Gideon and the people of Israel?

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

READ - 1 SAMUEL 12:1-25

Gideon (Jerubbaal) is mentioned in Samuel’s farewell speech as one of the mighty warriors that rescued the people of Israel out of the hands of their enemies and allowed the people to live in safety.

Reminder – Samuel is a discerning leader in the Old Testament who plays a key role in the transition from the period of the biblical judges to the institution of the kingdom under Saul, and then again in the transition from Saul to David. In the farewell speech noted above, Samuel is not pleased with the decision of the people to desire and establish monarchy. See 1 Samuel 8:6-8.

What good discernment skills do you learn through Samuel?

How does Gideon’s leadership and story make us better?

READ - HEBREWS 11:32 – 12:2

At the beginning of the 11th chapter of Hebrews, it reads: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Gideon is used as an example of faith and included in the great cloud of witnesses. Why?

In Hebrews 12:1-2, the Christian life is likened to running a race in which everything that hinders us from running well – in particular sin – is to be put aside.

What do you need to put aside and leave behind?



SHINE THE LIGHT ON FAITH

As we consider this season’s focus on re[New] consider the following questions:

As you reflect on Gideon’s story, how did things start over for Gideon?

What did he bring with him? What was completely new?

As you reflect on your own life, if you could start over again what would you want to bring with you? What would you want to be completely new?

How will you live differently this week because of your encounter with God’s Word?

MORE INSIGHT TO ILLUMINATE YOUR PATH

Listen to these podcasts from The Bible Project:

Overview of Judges

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOYy8iCfIJ4>

Overview of Hebrews

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fNWTZZwgbs>

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