

# **BIBLICAL LESSONS SUPERHEROES NEED TO LEARN TO SUCCEED**

**Sermon Series: Superheroes**

**Next Steps Devotional Guide**

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1. Read Ephesians 2:10 from your sermon notes. Read the explanation of the word translated as “masterpiece.” When you read or hear the word “masterpiece,” what comes to mind? Do you ever think of yourself as “God’s masterpiece”? Why or why not? If you were to humbly think of yourself as “God’s masterpiece,” what difference or changes or attitudes would impact your life?
2. Read Ephesians 3:20 from your sermon notes. Have you seen “God’s mighty power at work within you accomplishing more than you might ever think?” If so, when?
3. Read Job 42:2 from your sermon notes. God’s superheroes do not ask God what He can do for them. They ask God what they can do for God. They realize that the call of salvation comes with the call of serving. They know that being a part of the body of Christ makes them a minister. The remarkable thing about Gideon is that there was absolutely nothing remarkable about him when God called him. What does this say to you about yourself? Are you asking God where you can serve Him?
4. Judges 6 is about God’s call on Gideon to be a Judge over Israel.
  - a. Read Judges 6:37-40 from your sermon notes. Gideon never doubts God, but Gideon does not believe he has the ability to hear from God. This is why he goes through two days of putting out a fleece. Are you a “fleece” person or a “fact” person or a “faith” person?
  - b. Read Judges 6:1 from your sermon notes. God allowed His people to be oppressed for 7 years because of their disobedience. Has there ever been a time in your own life God allowed you to be oppressed because of your continued disobedience? What did you learn?
5. Read Judges 6:2-12 from your sermon notes under point #1, under the heading, “*Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn.*” There are many gods in our American culture. Which ones are you vulnerable to and why? What have been the results.
6. Read 1 Corinthians 1:27b from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, “*Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn.*” How do you define yourself? Do you think that it’s impossible for God to do something great through your life that will have lasting impact on the world? Do you think you’ve gone too far or maybe not far enough? Why or why not?
7. Read Judges 6:13-14 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, “*Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn.*”
  - a. We live in a culture that is more interested in results — the finished product — rather the process it takes to get there. Why is the process — the how and/or the why, just as important or more important than just results — the what?
  - b. God is calling you to do something, but are you are hiding due to fear or something else?
8. Read Ecclesiastes 11:4 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, “*Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn.*”
  - a. Do you wait for perfect conditions to jump-in, or do you jump-in? Why? We live in a culture that loves to complain. How could you take your complaining and turn it into a calling from God?
  - b. Read Judges 6:15 from your sermon notes under point #3. What are Gideon’s complaints to God? How could he have turned his complaining into a calling from God?
  - c. Many Christians have excuses as to why God cannot use them. When they hear a sermon or a Bible study about serving, they always know they should. Yet, they have a “but” as to why they do not qualify. Do you ever give any “buts” as to why you do not qualify? Why? What does this say to you about your trust in God and His power to help you?
9. Read Judges 6:16 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, “*Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn.*” We live in a culture where in job evaluations, we get evaluated on our abilities and results. God does not look at our abilities solely. He is primarily interested in our willingness and availability. Whatever is annoying you or burdening your heart is what God is calling you personally to either fix, or repair or restore or correct or implement. What is God calling you to do?
10. Read Psalm 34:8a from your sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, “*Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn.*” “*Taste*” is an interesting word to describe trusting God. Why do you think the psalmist chose this word?

11. Read Judges 6:25-27 from your sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, *"Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn."* Gideon does do what God told him to do, but at night. In all likelihood, Gideon had been going along with his family in their paganism and worship of Baal.
  - a. When are times you cave to family pressures when you know this is not God's will for your life? Why do you do it?
  - b. Has there been times you did not do what your family wanted, but you obeyed God "at night" like Gideon did? If so, when and why?
  - c. What is the significance of God telling Gideon to use the same wood for the idol Baal and the Asherah pole for the altar to be built for God to sacrifice the bull?
12. Read 1 Peter 4:17a from your sermon notes under point #6 under the heading, *"Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn."* Gideon had to clean up his private life before God could use him publicly.
  - a. How have you seen or need to see "God judgment begin in your own household" for God to use you as He desires?
  - b. Read Jonah 2:87 from your sermon notes under point #6. An idol is anything you allow to come between God and you. What would you say are some of your "idols"?
  - c. Are you sacrificing moral decency to an idol of indecent entertainment? Are you sacrificing sexual purity to an idol of an immoral relationship? Are you sacrificing your integrity to an idol of money? Are you sacrificing your family to an idol of business or busyness or success or climbing a ladder? Are you sacrificing God's highest good for lesser things? If so, where and why?
  - d. Is there anything that you are still clinging to in life? Something from your past, an old value, an old way of thinking? Is there anything you're still holding on to from your past you're not willing to let go of it, but it is causing you to forfeit the fullness of God's grace in your life?
  - e. Read Judges 6:32 from your sermon notes under doing #6 under the heading, *"Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn."* Gideon was given a new name for obeying God. This is common in the Bible when God calls someone. Abram ("exalted father") was given the new name Abraham ("father of a multitude"). Jacob ("heel grabber, supplanter") was given the new name Israel ("God perseveres"). Simon ("flat-nosed") was given the new name Peter ("rock"). Saul ("prayed for") was given the new name Paul ("small, little, humble"). In biblical days, names were connected to character. If God were to give you a new "name," what do you think it would be?
13. Read Judges 6:34 from your sermon notes under point #7 under the heading, *"Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn."*
  - a. God's anointing and power to us comes after we repent and sacrifice to obey Him with what He has called us to do. God called Gideon out of the blue, out of his despair, out of his paganism before Gideon had done anything to change his life at all. God called him into a purpose, into a calling, and into a greatness. God called Gideon before Gideon had changed his life. Why and what does this say to you about God's calling on your life?
  - b. Gideon initially had 32,000 soldiers to go into battle against an army of 135,000 in Judges 7. God had him reduce that number twice: from 32,000 down to 22,000 and then from 22,000 down to only 300 soldiers. That is a 450 to 1 odds. Those are odds no one in their right mind would accept. Do you think Gideon struggled with this? So, why do you think Gideon eventually obeys God with only 300 men going up against 135,000 Midianite soldiers and what can you learn and apply from this?
14. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is the supernatural work of God in your life that allows you to accomplish immeasurably beyond what you could ask or imagine. The anointing of the Holy Spirit on your life is the power of God that enables you to perform beyond your limitations. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is the power of God in your life that enables you to transcend the level of your own competency.
  - a. Which do you rely on more: your own abilities, skills, talents, intellect and etc. or the anointing of the Holy Spirit? What does this say to you? What do you need to do to depend more on the anointing of the Holy Spirit rather than your own abilities?
  - b. Why do you think it is a challenge to rely on the anointing of the Holy Spirit rather than ourselves?
  - c. Read Psalm 138:23-24 from your sermon notes under point #7 under the heading, *"Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn."* Is there a grudge or fear or money or anger or a career— some idol you're holding on to today that has come between God and you?
  - d. Read again Ephesians 3:20 from your sermon notes under point #7 under the heading, *Godly Lessons Superheroes Need to Learn."* Having worked through the devotional guide. What is this story about Gideon saying to you?