



Victim or Victor

February 12, 2012

We Fail Our Families When We:

- _____ God

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.

Judges 6:1-2 (NLT)

I told you, 'I am the LORD your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now live.' But you have not listened to me."

Judges 6:10 (NLT)

- Live in _____

Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites.

Judges 6:11 (NLT)

- We Let our Weaknesses Define Us

"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!"

Judges 6:15 (NLT)

The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!"

Judges 6:12 (NLT)

How to Lead Your Family to Victory

1. Embrace your _____ in your family and world

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 6:16 (NLT)

God didn't give us a cowardly spirit but a spirit of power, love, and good judgment.

2 Timothy 1:7 (GW)

2. Put your _____ in God rather than _____

So Jerub-baal (that is, Gideon) and his army got up early and went as far as the spring of Harod. The armies of Midian were camped north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved

themselves by their own strength. Therefore, tell the people, 'Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go home.'" So 22,000 of them went home, leaving only 10,000 who were willing to fight. But the LORD told Gideon, "There are still too many! Bring them down to the spring, and I will test them to determine who will go with you and who will not." When Gideon took his warriors down to the water, the LORD told him, "Divide the men into two groups. In one group put all those who cup water in their hands and lap it up with their tongues like dogs. In the other group put all those who kneel down and drink with their mouths in the stream." Only 300 of the men drank from their hands. All the others got down on their knees and drank with their mouths in the stream. The LORD told Gideon, "With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home." So Gideon collected the provisions and rams' horns of the other warriors and sent them home. But he kept the 300 men with him. The Midianite camp was in the valley just below Gideon. Judges 7:1-8 (NLT)

But he told me: "My kindness is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak." So I will brag even more about my weaknesses in order that Christ's power will live in me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (GW)

3. Consistently act on _____ to you.

It was just after midnight, after the changing of the guard, when Gideon and the 100 men with him reached the edge of the Midianite camp. Suddenly, they blew the rams' horns and broke their clay jars. Then all three groups blew their horns and broke their jars. They held the blazing torches in their left hands and the horns in their right hands, and they all shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" Each man stood at his position around the camp and watched as all the Midianites rushed around in a panic, shouting as they ran to escape. When the 300 Israelites blew their rams' horns, the LORD caused the warriors in the camp to fight against each other with their swords. Judges 7:19-22a (NLT)

Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves. James 1:22 (GW)

My Next Step Today Is To:

- Give myself to God, finding in Him forgiveness and a victorious life.
- Embrace the role that God has for me so that I may be a blessing to my family and world.
- Do it - act on God's Word so that I might see the victory.
- Meditate on and/or memorize 2 Timothy 1:7
 - God didn't give us a cowardly spirit but a spirit of power, love, and good judgment. (GW)