



Learning to Rise
September 19, 2021
Judges 6:11-18 (MSG)

Connect:

- American's greatest fears include: spiders, heights, and public speaking. What is your greatest fear? Why? How have your fears shifted over the years?

Engage

- Read **Judges 6:11-18 (MSG)**. Gideon is a military leader who is now hiding out from the latest oppressor of his people, the Midianites. When you have experienced loss or failure in your life, have you retreated or hidden from the 'winners'? Why or why not? Describe your experience.
- Like Moses did earlier in our *Courageous* series, Gideon shies away from the call to rise when approached by God. He doesn't have a clan to speak of. He's the runt of the litter. What could he really do? Cognitively, we understand any and every contribution matters to the movement of the whole but we often feel what we have to offer is not of great consequence. Do you tend to downplay your contribution to any team effort? Why or why not?
- God seems to be calling Gideon to an impossible task. What impossible task are you being called to at this time in your life? How do you know it's of God? Are you afraid?
- When God looks directly at Gideon and says, "*Go in the strength that is yours,*" we find new confidence. It suggests that there is strength inside of us already; perhaps even unique to us. What do you perceive to be your unique strength? How are you using it in this season of your life?
- How are we learning to rise as a congregation in this whole new world re-directed by a pandemic? Can you site some examples? What opportunities do you see for our Church in this whole new world?

Next Steps:

- Tackle one of your fears this week by learning more about the focus of what it is you fear. Through educating yourself, see how your fears shift. How could this practice be expanded to other areas of your life?

Pray:

- "*Learning to get back up when we fall is a lesson we've been learning since we first found our legs as toddlers. The stakes rise, Lord, as we age and grow in our responsibilities. Strengthen our courage that we will people who rise regardless. It is in the rising that we discover who we really are. Thank you, for your rising promise to be in the thick of life with us. We learn to rise from you. Amen.*"