Teen Connect
First Presbyterian Church Sarasota

The Takedown

July 13, 2025 // Judges 6:25-32

Case Study: Gideon's Choice

Background: Last week, Gideon, feeling like the weakest person from the weakest family, was called by God to be a "mighty warrior."

The Mission (Judges 6:25-32): God gives Gideon his first major assignment: tear down the town's altar to the idol Baal and the sacred Asherah pole beside it. These were huge cultural symbols, and destroying them would be seen as a direct attack on the town's identity and beliefs. To make it even more intense, he's instructed to build a new altar to God and sacrifice one of his father's bulls on it.

The Execution: Gideon knew this was a dangerous move. He was "too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day," so he took ten men and executed the plan under the cover of darkness. The next morning, the town was in an uproar, demanding Gideon be executed. His father, Joash, surprisingly defends him, essentially saying, "If Baal is a god, let him defend himself." This gives Gideon a new name: Jerub-baal ("Let Baal contend").

Would You Rather...

...publicly stand for what's right and face major backlash from your peers, OR stay quiet to keep the peace, even if it means compromising your beliefs?

...be known as someone who is "too scared" to act rashly but gets the job done correctly, OR be known as someone who is "fearless" but often makes a mess of things?

Journal / Doodle

Gideon was afraid, but he acted anyway. What's one area in your life (school, friends, family) where you feel God might be calling you to be braver? What does that look like?

The Challenge

This week, identify one "altar" in our culture that people put before God. It could be status, money, popularity, a political idea, etc. You don't have to tear it down physically, but think about these questions:

- How does this "altar" distract people from what's truly important?
- What is one small, brave step you can take to show that your identity is in Christ, not in that cultural value? (e.g., complimenting an "opponent," choosing honesty over a "socially acceptable" lie, spending time in prayer instead of endlessly scrolling).

Key Takeaway:

Courage isn't the absence of fear; it's acting despite it because you trust the one who called you.