

**Great Stories of the Bible
Part 2**

How Do You Face Great Odds

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah ... where ... Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.' **Judges 6:11-12**

Gideon replied, 'but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.' **Judges 6:15**

GOD SEES MORE

Jesus, grow me up. Where I see weak, help me to see myself as strong.
Where I see least, give me Your vision for more!

Don't let doubt extinguish your potential

Jesus said, 'You have been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much.' **Matthew 25:23**

That same night the Lord said to him, 'Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. Then build a proper kind of altar to the Lord your God on the top of this site. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering.' So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the townspeople, he did it at night rather than in the daytime. In the morning when the people of the town got up, there was Baal's altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar! **Judges 6:25-28**

Gideon replied, 'If now I've found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.' And the Lord said, 'I will wait until you return.' Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak. The angel of God said to him, *'Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth.'* And Gideon did so. Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared. ... Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord ... **Judges 6:17-22**

Gideon said to God, *'If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised -- look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said.'* And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew -- a bowlful of water. Then Gideon said to God, *'Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew. That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.'* **Judges 6:36-40**

3 Tips For Using A Fleece In Prayer

It's in the Bible once, so that means it can be done, but it's in there only once to remind us not to do this every time we pray.

This isn't a test for God. It's a test for us, because we are saying, 'Lord, I'll obey ANYTHING You ask me to do when I know for sure it's You.'

A fleece prayer asks God to do something only God could do so that it is unmistakably clear.

The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into your hands or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.' Now announce to the army, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. But the Lord said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not

go.” So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, ‘Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.’ Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

The Lord said to Gideon, ‘With the three hundred that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.’ So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others. **Judges 7:2-7**

When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon.’ Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, ‘A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!’ While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled. **Judges 7:18-21**

Why Did God Shrink Gideon’s Army to 300 Men?

God always wants to grow our faith and few things grow our faith as much as watching God make much from a little.

When you face great odds, remember, if you obey the Lord,
You and the Lord are MORE than enough

God always wants to occupy the greatest part of your story

God doesn’t call the qualified; He qualifies the called. He’s not looking for ability as much as He is looking for availability. It was Gideon’s obedience that caught the eye of God.