

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

Be ...

confident

So, here's the story ...

Israel had been in trouble for doing evil and the Lord had disciplined them by letting the Midianites take advantage of them. Israel was poor and broken. The time came for their punishment to be over, so the Angel of the Lord came to a man named Gideon. The Angel said, "The Lord is with you, mighty man of courage. Go, save Israel from the Midianites." Gideon couldn't believe God would send him because he didn't think he was great or brave. God said, "I will be with you." Gideon wanted to be sure God was really talking to him. He was shown something miraculous so he knew he had seen the Angel of the Lord. He was told to tear down the altar of the false god Baal and build an altar to God in its place. Gideon did as he was told, but did it at night because he was afraid to be seen doing it during the day by the people of the city. They were mad and wanted to kill Gideon, but his father, Joash, said, "If Baal is such a big god, then let him defend his own altar!"

Later, Gideon wanted a sign to be sure God was really going to use him to rescue Israel. He said to God, "If it's true, then make the dew fall only on this wool blanket and keep the ground around it dry." God did. Gideon said, "Please, don't be mad, but I want to be sure. This time keep the wool blanket dry and let the ground around it be wet with dew." Again, God did it exactly as Gideon asked.

Read the story for yourself in Judges 6:1-40

Take it to God

Don't be afraid to ask God to make things clear for you when you are sincerely trying to hear His voice or do His will. He was patient with Gideon, He will be with you, too.

Halfway there

WEDNESDAY

A.M.

Noon

P.M.

Eve

You wanna be ...

definite
fixed; determined;
qualified; specific;
settled; resolved

or

undecided
uncertain; unsure;
unsettled; doubtful;
wishy-washy



‘When you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.’

James 1:6-7

Throw your hands up
THURSDAY

A.M.

Noon

P.M.

Eve

Make a difference ...

Step up:

The best way to not doubt is work on your faith. What is a good way to build your faith in God and His plans? Get to know Him better; read your Bible and learn more about Him and pray to Him often. Simply work on putting Him first every day.

Take it up a notch:

Start a journal. Write down things that you take to God in prayer. And you can go back later and write down how (and when) He answered or resolved the situation. That is a huge faith builder. On a side note: Don't think you have to buy some fancy journal to write in. It can be a cheap spiral notebook or notebook paper. Just make it something that you can keep together, maybe in a binder or folder. I have bought so many pretty journals in the past — and could not for the life of me make myself write in them. I was too afraid to mess them up. (lol)

Poll your friends ...

Have you ever doubted God?

Yes

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No

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There were a lot of miraculous things God did for people on the earth. Read about one of them here:

Judges 6:37-40

FRIDAY

Finale

God's patience is shown to Gideon again



WEEKEND

WoodHoo!

A.M.

Sat.

Noon

P.M.

Sun.

End

Here is a really cool story of God's patience with one of His children. Bless his heart, poor Gideon did not have much confidence. And he even second-guessed God's sign that He agreed to give him — asking Him to send a sign twice. It wasn't that Gideon didn't want to achieve what God had set before him, he simply wanted to be really sure — I mean really, really sure — that he was hearing right and that it was God doing the instructing. I can totally relate to that. When it comes down to doing something extremely important or might have huge consequences, you want to be absolutely certain you are on the right track. Messing up can sometimes have a catastrophic impact. But doubt also can wreck

any progress when it comes to doing what God wants for you. Doubt can creep into your head and cause you to question what you already know is right — or worse, keep you from doing what God is really telling you to do. The cool thing about Gideon's story is that God didn't seem to be bothered by Gideon's request for assurance. That's one of the reasons we have to stay in our Bibles regularly. Because time and the busyness of life have a way of making the truth fade into the background and eventually disappear from sight. If we set our minds on God all the time, we protect ourselves from doubt creeping in. Staying consistent can be hard, but I promise you there is a good purpose behind it. It's a way God helps us stay encouraged.

Did you know?

Here are some scriptures you can look up that talk about faith and doubt:

- James 1:6
- Matthew 21:21
- Mark 11:23
- Isaiah 41:10
- Hebrews 11:6
- 2 Cor. 5:7
- Proverbs 3:5-8
- Matthew 14:31
- James 1:5-8
- Hebrews 11:1
- Romans 10:17
- 1 Timothy 2:8

So, let's wrap it up



Vicky's
VIEW

God's plan for Gideon was not a simple one. It required a lot of strength and bravery. The story makes it seem like Gideon had very little of either of those things. Funny how God tends to do that throughout the Bible. There's a really good reason for that, actually. It's a lot harder to deny God's hand was in something when it was a feat that could not possibly be accomplished without Him. If Gideon had been a fierce warrior like David, or Samson, or Joshua, this plan to save Israel wouldn't have seemed like such a big deal. It was stuff those guys did all the time. Gideon was no soldier, and he sure didn't feel like one. But in Judges 6:12 the Angel of the Lord straight-up called him "mighty man of valor." Hmm. I'm gonna say God's

messenger specifically called him that on purpose. That's because God knew Gideon better than he knew himself. Gideon referred to himself as the least of his house and that his clan was the weakest ... meaning that everybody in his family was more important than him, but they weren't anything to brag about either. Wow. When picking teammates, do you get the idea that God was partnering with the worst of the worst? I think that was no coincidence at all. In 2 Corinthians 12:9, God told the Apostle Paul that His grace was sufficient for him, and that His power was made perfect in weakness. So, that is definitely good news in Gideon's case — and in the case of anyone who has ever struggled with

feeling worthy. The Lord doesn't seem worried at all about people who don't have it all together. He's proven that confidence in yourself is not a qualification required for Him to be able to use you. What a relief. I've found that a lot (if not most) of the time, when it comes down to it, the most impactful moments and events have been when I felt the least qualified or equipped. In a way, I think that is a blessing in disguise. When you are certain the prize is completely out of your reach, you don't waste your energy attempting to grab it. You are then forced to look to something (Someone, actually) outside of your control for help to make it happen. It also takes the pressure off you to achieve the goal yourself.

That reminds me of another story in the Bible. In 2 Samuel 5:22-25, when the Philistines were causing trouble again, God told David and his men to go chill out under some trees for awhile. He told David that once he could hear the sound of marching (from where they were) only then could he jump out and attack. The reason God made David and his army wait was because He went out ahead of them to strike the enemy first. God went before His people in battle. He still does that now. When you learn to trust your Commander-in-Chief, the battles are not as difficult or overwhelming, because you know He is fighting for you and His battle plans rely on His strength instead of yours.

Ponder this:

This week, have you doubted God's goodness and power? How much time have you spent with Him?

Time to take charge of your life:

(Fill in the blank ...)

has been bugging me lately, bringing me down. What can I do to change that? Do I need help from someone else? Who?

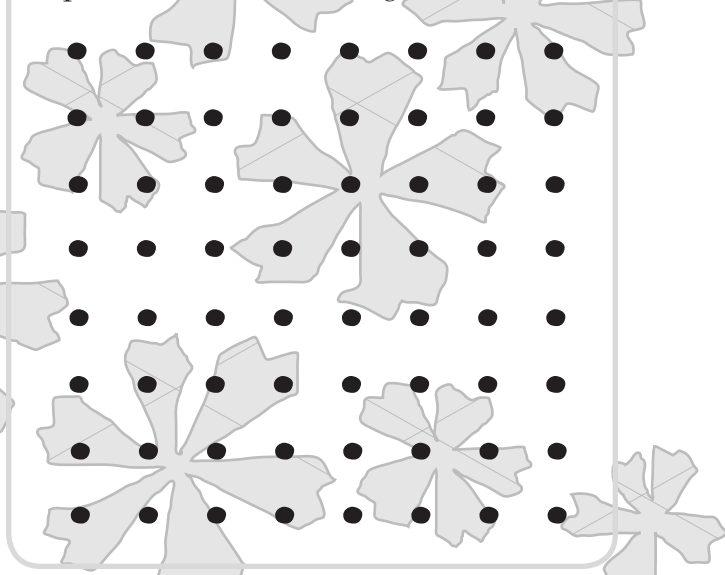
Something good that happened this week was:

Let's read:

Judges 6

Claiming the promised land

To play, connect two adjacent (next to each other) dots. Take turns with your opponent. If you complete a square, you get another turn. The one with the most squares at the end of the game wins.



You are ...

fantastic

Wandering the wilderness

Make your way along the words to make a sentence. Your journey will form one single path. You can only go north, south, east, or west and the path must never cross over itself. Start at the northwest corner and finish at the southeast corner.



**D O N A S T
E M T W A E
B I T R L L
E G U U O Y
I N P S E T**

answer on page 334

Matthew 7:7

answer on page 318

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| ISRAEL | PROPHET | DEW |
| MOUNTAINS | DELIVERED | LEAST |
| AMALEKITES | OPPRESSED | DEFEAT |
| GO | TREE | FAVOR |

Doodle Box

Discover

answer on page 326

