

## SYNOPSIS

After getting all fired up in church about loving people unexpectedly in “real life,” reality sets in fast, and the all-too-familiar feeling of fear sets in. Many who Loaded, and even sensed the prompting of the Holy Spirit (Listened) to drop a Grace Bomb, failed to Let ‘er go. Why? Because getting out of our comfort zones is hard. This message addresses the elephant in the room of our natural fears in taking Jesus public – even if it is through an anonymous Grace Bomb! But take heart – we have great promises to embolden us. We turn to Gideon from Judges 6-7 because he was a skeptical and fearful servant of the Lord who was called to Grace Bomb Israel by driving out the Midianites. This is a fun narrative to tell that leads us to the promises for Gideon that we also share – particularly what was spoken to him as he was threshing wheat in the winepress. We too are mighty in the hand of the Lord, we too are sent by God, and we also have God with us – always. This spiritual reality can help combat the fear of attempting to obey Jesus when He calls us out of our comfort zones.

## BIG IDEA

**God’s promises of being mighty, sent, and not alone help us to step out of our comfort zones.**

## KEY TEXTS

**Judges 6:12-16**

**1 Corinthians 1:26-28**

**John 20:21**

**Matthew 28: 18-20**

*Example Grace Bomb story of a “Fail” part 1:*

## SERMON OUTLINE

### INTRODUCTION

A personal story about a time when something looked cool, but your self-preservation kicked in and said “Ain’t no way.”

Grace Bombing can be like that:

- fear of the unknown - getting out of our comfort zones
- fear of loss - or scarcity
- or even fear of rejection can stop us in our tracks.

*After church today, my son and I went to Wawa to Grace Bomb someone by buying their coffee with a \$5 gift card, but particularly to have my son Jack do the Grace Bombing. He’s 14. The first man Jack approached said an outright no to Jack and me, with an angry face and voice, in front of everyone in line. He then said, “I can pay for my own stuff.” The cashier asked me what it was about. I briefly explained, and she said that what the man said was unkind and that what Jack was trying to do was good. I encouraged Jack not to be discouraged, so we decided to wait around and try again. In the waiting time, Jack asked me if I would do it, and he could watch and do it the next time. I walked up to a man in line who might have been standing with a woman and two little kids. We weren’t sure if they were together. He also refused and said, “Give it to her,” pointing to the woman behind him.*

- This story creates a tension about the possibility of rejection and a cliffhanger that gets resolved later.

To help resolve some of our natural fears we look to someone who also was afraid to step out into the good work that God was calling Him to: Gideon from Judges 6-7.

*It would be helpful to take a minute to establish the context of the book of Judges, and where Gideon fits in - and the current Midianite occupation and oppression of Israel. Then you jump into the key texts:*



### A MEETING IN THE WINEPRESS...

SLIDE 1

*And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor." And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." Judges 6:12-13*

- Many of us can relate to this conversation... If God is there, why is all this bad stuff happening right now?

SLIDE 2

*And the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" Judges 6:14*

- The angel of the Lord doesn't answer his question - he just gives him a Grace Bomb to drop on Israel...to drive out their oppressors.
- Did the angel ignore Gideon? No, God already sent a prophet to tell the people why things were bad (idolatry)

But now Gideon's focus shifts:

SLIDE 3

*And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." Judges 6:15*

- A natural, fearful reaction: But I'm a nobody!
- I can't put myself out there - I don't have the resources to drop that Grace Bomb!

And into this fear comes a promise:

SLIDE 4

*And the Lord said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." Judges 6:16*

Fast-Forward through the narrative and highlight how God Keeps Showing Up (Graphic):

SLIDE 5

*Fire  
Dad  
Fleece  
300  
Dream*

- **Fire** - God reveals his identity to Gideon by consuming fire
- **Dad** - Gideon's Father steps in to defend his son against the mob
- **Fleece** - God patiently grants Gideon's tests
- **300** (from 32,000) - Gideon's army shrinks to impossible odds to show God is fighting the battle
- **Dream** (of the encamped Midianties) - Gideon's final revelation from God that God is with him

*Transition: After all these personal blessings to Gideon - God wins the battle against Midian (which you can read about on your own in Judges 7, 8) God might not do the fleece, might not give you a sign of fire, or show you a dream—but let's talk about what He has told all of us, that we share with Gideon:*



SLIDE 6

## YOU ARE MIGHTY

SLIDE 7

*"The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor."*

The Apostle Paul reminds us of God's economy of greatness here:

SLIDE 8

*For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 1 Corinthians 1:26-28*

- In other words, we are all nobodies - but we are mighty in the hand of the Lord.
- *This is a good place for a story about how God used something small in your life in a big way.*



SLIDE 9

### YOU ARE SENT

SLIDE 10

*"... do not I send you?"*

SLIDE 11

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." John 20:21*

- Just as Jesus was sent into the world, full of grace and truth, so we are also "sent ones"
- Sent to be close to others, and to serve them humbly and sacrificially.

When God sends, He provides the resources:

SLIDE 12

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8*

- When you give/pour yourself out, seeing an opportunity, and with humility and compassion meet that need, He will provide.
- What God calls us to - He provides for.



SLIDE 13

### YOU'VE GOT NUMBERS

SLIDE 14

*"But I will be with you..."*

SLIDE 15

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20*

- We are not alone when we step out in faith - we are stepping out to where Jesus already is...
- This has a broad application - you are not alone!

*Transition:* You are a grace-built person made to Grace Bomb people - sharing in the promises of Gideon to overcome your fear in stepping out of your comfort zone. You are mighty in God's hand, you are sent and supplied with all you need, and God Himself is with you. But if all that is true - does that mean we'll never fail? What was the deal with Jack and his mom? Here is her answer, in her words:

**Example Grace Bomb story of a "Fail" part 2:**

*We tried to give a gift—a free gift—to two men who would not accept and were adamant bordering on rude. We wonder why this wasn't an easy thing to do with folks just saying, "Sure! Yeah, thanks." Why was this our experience? What did God want us to learn from this? For sure, we'll persevere. Jesus gives a free gift to all people, and so many say no, both back when Jesus walked the earth and now. It's the greatest gift of all. We got a tiny taste of that. How much more was our Lord Jesus rejected as He was said no to over and over. We are hoping that somehow God will work through our small acts of love.*

- The outcomes of stepping out in faith are not in our hands - our job is to obey and take the step.
- God can use all kinds of reactions to bring about His deeper purposes in the lives of the receiver and the especially the giver.

*Closing Charge:* Share a story about the reason(s) you might be afraid even today to step out of your comfort zones.