



date _____

1.12



I wonder what life would be like if I would just learn to say yes to the One who always knows what's best for me.

Inspire (for parents)

I love the beach! I love everything about it. The smell of the ocean and the feel of the sand on my bare feet are incredible. I love that when I put my toes in the water, God in His mighty power stops the enormous ocean at exactly the right spot before it consumes me. Because of my passion for the beach, I often try and share it with those I love.

Last week I took my two-year-old granddaughter to the beach. Her favorite activity is to walk along the seawall. The wall is approximately 18 inches wide, but for a two year old it is like walking a tightrope. As she balanced herself, I allowed her to walk without help as long as the fall on the opposite side was not too far. When we reached the spot that would have put her in danger I reached out to take her hand. Her immediate response was, "No, Mimi, I do it myself!" I explained to her why this was not a safe place to walk by herself but no words would convince her. Once again I reached for her hand. She jerked it back and said, this time with more force, "No, Mimi, I do it myself!" I then proceeded with

her kicking and screaming to take her off the seawall and carry her to a spot where it would be safe for her to walk alone again.

I often wonder how many times I say, "No, God, I do it myself!" when He always has my best at heart. I wonder what life would be like if I would just learn to say yes to the One who always knows what's best for me.

by Debbie Guinn

Getting Started

Scripture: Judges 6-7

(God Calls Gideon)

Main Point: God Wants Us to Say Yes to Him

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **before your children attend church**. Because God's plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

God desired the Israelites to turn to Him and say yes. But here in Judges 6, we see the Israelites had once again turned from the one true God and sought fulfillment through the worship of false gods. Because of their disobedience, God permitted neighboring countries to overpower Israel. Each time the people attempted to plant crops, the Midianites and Amalekites would sweep in and destroy what had been planted. Despite their stubbornness the Israelites finally cried out to God.

The Lord heard their petitions and sent a judge to lead them to victory over their enemies. Ironically, God chose to use a simple farmer to redeem Israel. A farmer! Gideon was not trained in the military and yet the angel of the Lord called him "mighty warrior." The Hebrew translation of the word *gibbowr* describes the warrior as strong, mighty, and impetuous (aggressive and fast-moving). A warrior is also described as having hunter-like qualities and capabilities.

It was not Gideon's skill and experience that made him a warrior; it was the Lord God. A simple farmer became a strategic warrior. Gideon was used by the Lord of Israel to redeem and save her from her enemies when he said yes to God.

REMEMBER VERSE

Jesus answered ...
"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."
John 14:9b

Support (for parents & kids)

> **JUST FOR FUN**, read this portion of Scripture when it's dark outside. Tell your children that God had Gideon fight many of his battles at night when it was dark outside to make it harder to see. Then read together **Judges 6:11-17**.

Ask your children if they could be anything, what would they like to be? Remind them that God has a plan for their lives and will use them in mighty ways if they always listen for His voice and say yes to Him.

When you're finished, share with your children that what they just heard is a part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and that they'll hear more about it in church this week. Close your time by praying together and thanking God that He has a plan for our lives better than we could even imagine!

God chose to use a **simple farmer** to redeem Israel.

