



THE STORY OF THE BIBLE

OPENING QUESTION

Who are the role models in your life?

LEVEL 1

VIDEO



The Story of the Bible

by The Bible Project

Question:

In the video, it talked about how there is often confusion over what the best course of action is. What ways do you think as young people you are influenced today? Do you think these influences are good or bad?

LEVEL 2

BIBLE

Judges 6:1-18 (NRSVCE) The beginning of Gideon's Story, one of the Jewish heroes known as 'Judges'

The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. **2** The hand of Midian prevailed over Israel; and because of Midian the Israelites provided for themselves hiding places in the mountains, caves and strongholds. **3** For whenever the Israelites put in seed, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the east would come up against them. **4** They would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the land, as far as the neighbourhood of Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel, and no sheep or ox or donkey. **5** For they and their livestock would come up, and they would even bring their tents, as thick as locusts; neither they nor their camels could be counted; so they wasted the land as they came in. **6** Thus Israel was greatly impoverished because of Midian; and the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help.

7 When the Israelites cried to the Lord on account of the Midianites, **8** the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites; and he said to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt, and brought you out of the house of slavery; **9** and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians, and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you, and gave you their land; **10** and I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; you shall not pay reverence to the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not given heed to my voice."

11 Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, to hide it from the Midianites. **12** The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior." **13** Gideon answered him, "But sir, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our ancestors recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has cast us off, and given us into the hand of Midian." **14** Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; I hereby commission you." **15** He responded, "But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." **16** The Lord said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike down the Midianites, every one of them." **17** Then he said to him, "If now I have found favor with you, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. **18** Do not depart from here until I come to you, and bring out my present, and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay until you return."

Question:

Gideon's story is one of learning to trust God. From this point onwards he asks for many other signs every time God asks him to do something. Trusting others can often be difficult, why do you think that is and what do you think helps or hinders trust in those we know?

LEVEL 3

CATECHISM

Why did Jesus Work miracles?

Jesus accompanies his words with many "mighty works and wonders and signs", which manifest that the kingdom is present in him and attest that he was the promised Messiah.

By freeing some individuals from the earthly evils of hunger, injustice, illness and death, Jesus performed messianic signs. Nevertheless, he did not come to abolish all evils here below, but to free men from the gravest slavery, sin, which thwarts them in their vocation as God's children and causes all forms of human bondage.

The coming of God's kingdom means the defeat of Satan's: "If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." Jesus' exorcisms free some individuals from the domination of demons. They anticipate Jesus' great victory over "the ruler of this world". The kingdom of God will be definitively established through Christ's cross: "God reigned from the wood. (CCC 547-550)

Question:

As Catholics, we believe Jesus invites us as modern day followers to trust him more in our life. What ways do you think God invites people to trust Him today?