



Session 10: Timid Warrior
Suggested Week of Use: February 5, 2017
Core Passages: Judges 6:11-16,25-32

News Story Summary

Sports analyst, Jeff Chase, recently released a list of twenty of the greatest underdogs in sports history. Chase wrote that the list includes a single person or team that began as nobodies but “somehow made their way to become somebodies.” He explained that the idea of an underdog is possibly an oxymoron because an underdog began as nothing, yet we aspire to see him or her to succeed.

Chase listed such underdogs as Tim Tebow and the 2011 Denver Broncos, 1966 Texas Western Men’s Basketball Team, Michael Oher, Tom Brady and the 2001 New England Patriots, and of course the 1980 Men’s Hockey Team, which were not anywhere close to favorites but went on to “show that underdogs can never be dismissed.”

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “underdog sports stories.”)

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, ask: *What does reluctance have to do with an underdog status? What causes believers to be reluctant to follow God’s will for their lives?* Read the News Story Summary. Draw a line to represent a scale on the board, and mark it from 1 to 10. Explain that 1 on the scale is underdog without action and 10 is underdog with action. Ask: *At what point on the scale can the underdog status be overcome? Ask them to explain their response.*

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge idea, ask group members where Gideon as a self-proclaimed underdog would fall on the underdog scale (with 1 being underdog and 10 being sure winner). Remind the group of the news summary. Explain that athletes or sports teams are marked as underdogs when they are not expected to win a game. However, there is no reluctance on their part to try to win, making them a 10 on the scale. Gideon saw himself as an underdog and was reluctant to follow God’s command, making him a 1 on the scale. Ask group members to reflect on where they fall on the scale when reluctance challenges their walk with God. Challenge them to follow Gideon’s example who trusted God to lead and strengthen him in spite of his initial reluctance to follow God’s will.