

## TAKE HOME SHEET



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**Series:** HUSH  
**Message:** A Quiet Precursor  
**Speaker:** Rusty Coram  
**Date:** December 17/18, 2016

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This week, we explored the ways that God provided support and encouragement to Mary, along with Elizabeth and Zechariah. God offers the same support to you and me when we choose to trust and obey Him. The only way to experience His encouragement is to begin stepping out in faith by obediently following Him. Among the stories they grew up learning were those of Esther, Ruth and Gideon. These were ordinary people who stepped out in obedience to God and experienced His encouragement and support along the way. The Old Testament books named for Esther and Ruth are short and would be valuable to read this week as follow up to this message. The following are excerpts from Gideon's life found in the book of Judges.

Gideon was fearful and anything but a valiant soldier. In chapter six, God gives him tests that build Gideon's courage and show him that God can be fully trusted. In chapter seven, this training continues until the big showdown between God's people and the army of Midian, that has harassed and abused the Israelites for many years. The numbers are staggeringly unfair. So, God offers Gideon encouragement. As you read think about what this meant to Mary and her cousins. What does it say to you?

<sup>7</sup> The LORD told Gideon, "With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home."<sup>8</sup> So Gideon collected the provisions and rams' horns of the other warriors and sent them home. But he kept the 300 men with him. The Midianite camp was in the valley just below Gideon.<sup>9</sup> That night the LORD said, "Get up! Go down into the Midianite camp, for I have given you victory over them!"<sup>10</sup> But if you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah.<sup>11</sup> Listen to what the Midianites are saying, and you will be greatly encouraged. Then you will be eager to attack." So Gideon took Purah and went down to the edge of the enemy camp.<sup>12</sup> The armies of Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east had settled in the valley like a swarm of locusts. Their camels were like grains of sand on the seashore—too many to count!<sup>13</sup> Gideon crept up just as a man was telling his companion about a dream. The man said, "I had this dream, and in my dream a loaf of barley bread came tumbling down into the Midianite camp. It hit a tent, turned it over, and knocked it flat!"<sup>14</sup> His companion answered, "Your dream can mean only one thing—God has given Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite, victory over Midian and all its allies!"<sup>15</sup> When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in worship before the LORD. Then he returned to the Israelite camp and shouted, "Get up! For the LORD has given you victory over the Midianite hordes!"

Judges 7:7-15 (NLT)

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BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation