



YOU'RE

→ INVITED




- 1 "Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.
- 2 Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

Isaiah 55:1-3 NIV


3 Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.

Isaiah 55:1-3 NIV

A large, irregular splash of blue watercolor paint is centered on a white background. The splash has various shades of blue, from light to dark, and a soft, feathered edge. The text is centered within this splash.

You are invited by
God to buy.

A blue watercolor splash background with varying shades of blue and white, creating a soft, textured effect. The splash is centered on a white background.

To be invited to buy
is an invitation to
trust and have faith
in Him.

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Isaiah 55:1-2a NIV

It is one thing to accept
God's invitation to **come**.

It is another thing to accept
God's invitation to **listen**.

But it is an
entirely different
thing to place
our trust and
faith in **Him**.

The background of the image features abstract watercolor-style splashes of blue and teal paint on a white background. The splashes are located in the top-left, top-right, and bottom-right corners, framing the central text.

The struggle of being
stuck in the middle

¹²When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”

¹³“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

Judges 6:12-16 NIV

¹⁴The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

¹⁵"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

¹⁶The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."

Judges 6:12-16 NIV



Listen to the promises that God tells Gideon:



Listen to the promises that God tells Gideon:

→ The Lord would
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Listen to the promises that God tells Gideon:

- → The Lord would be **with** him.

- → He was a mighty warrior.

Listen to the promises that God tells Gideon:

→ The Lord would be with him.

→ He was being sent by God with a specific purpose.

→ He was a mighty warrior.

Listen to the promises that God tells Gideon:

→ The Lord would be with him.

→ He was being sent by God with a specific purpose.

→ He was a mighty warrior.

→ He would have victory over the enemy.

¹⁷Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. ¹⁸Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you."

And the Lord said, "I will wait until you return."

¹⁹Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak.

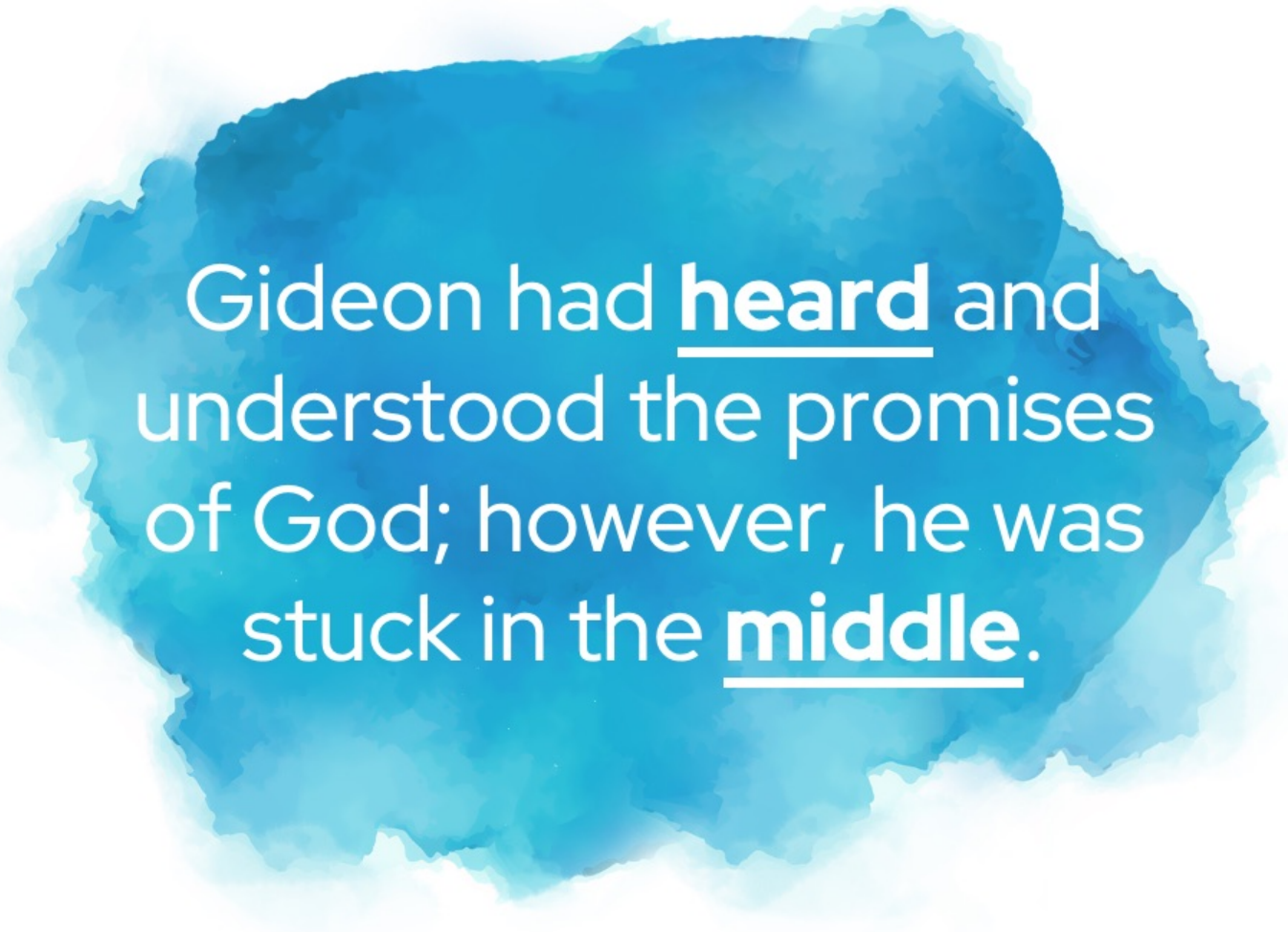
Judges 6:17-21 NIV

²⁰The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so. ²¹Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared.

Judges 6:17-21 NIV

³⁶Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised— ³⁷look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." ³⁸And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.

Judges 6:36–38 NIV

A blue watercolor splash background with varying shades of blue and teal, centered on a white background. The splash has irregular, feathered edges.

Gideon had heard and understood the promises of God; however, he was stuck in the middle.

³⁹Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew." ⁴⁰That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

Judges 6:39-40 NIV

The Midianite camp was in the valley just below Gideon. ⁹That night the Lord said, "Get up! Go down into the Midianite camp, for I have given you victory over them! ¹⁰But if you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah. ¹¹Listen 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. ¹²The armies of Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east had settled in

Judges 7:8b-15 NLT

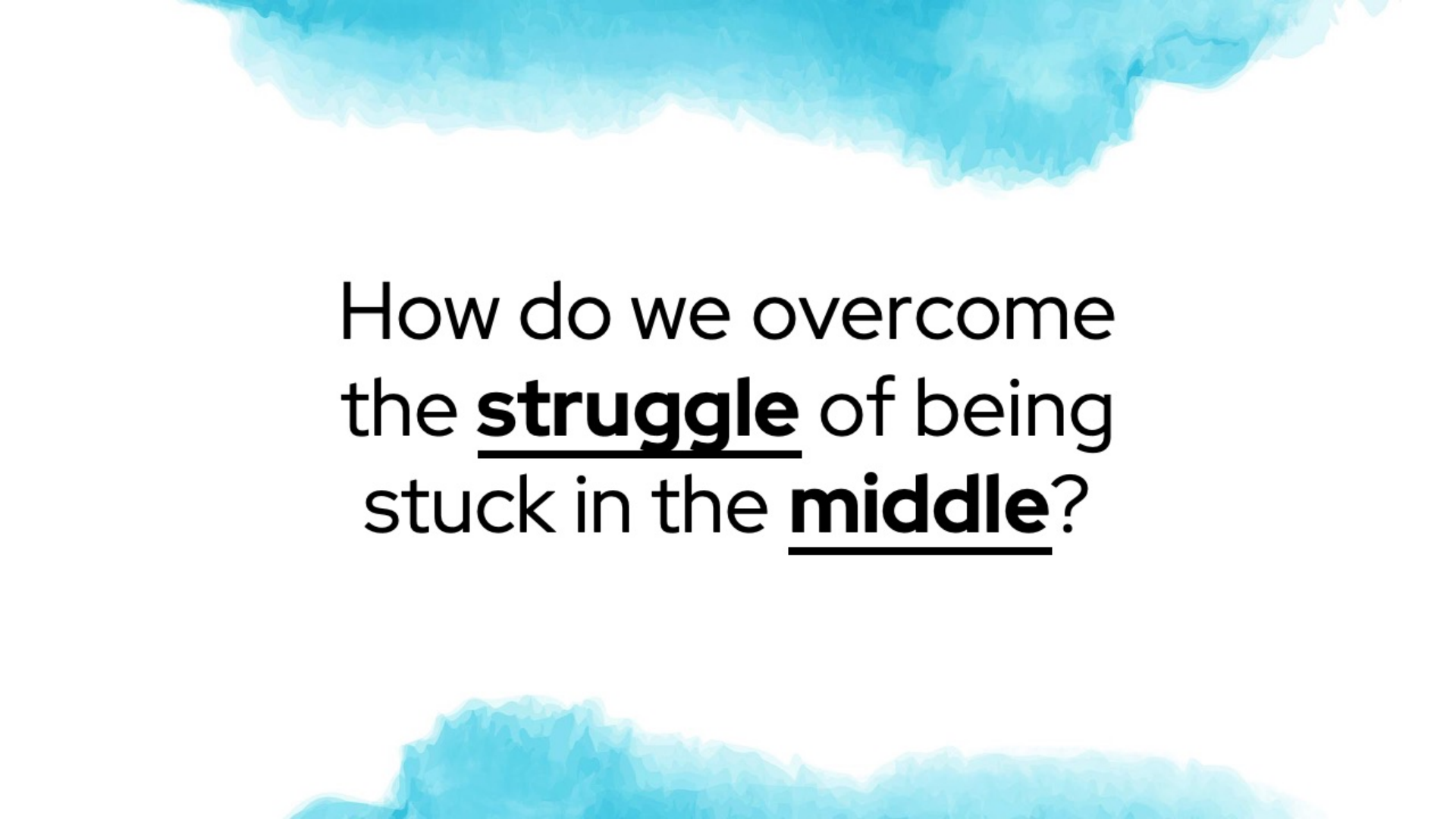
the valley like a swarm of locusts. Their camels were like grains of sand on the seashore—too many to count! ¹³Gideon crept up just as a man was telling his companion about a dream. The man said, “I had this dream, and in my dream a loaf of barley bread came tumbling down into the Midianite camp. It hit a tent, turned it over, and knocked it flat!”

Judges 7:8b-15 NLT

¹⁴His 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!"

¹⁵When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in worship before the Lord.

Judges 7:8b-15 NLT



How do we overcome
the **struggle** of being
stuck in the **middle**?

A horizontal blue brushstroke graphic with a textured, painterly appearance, containing the text 'Hebrews 4:15 ESV' in white.


Hebrews 4:15 ESV

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.



Mark 14:32-36 NLT

³²They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." ³³He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. ³⁴He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."



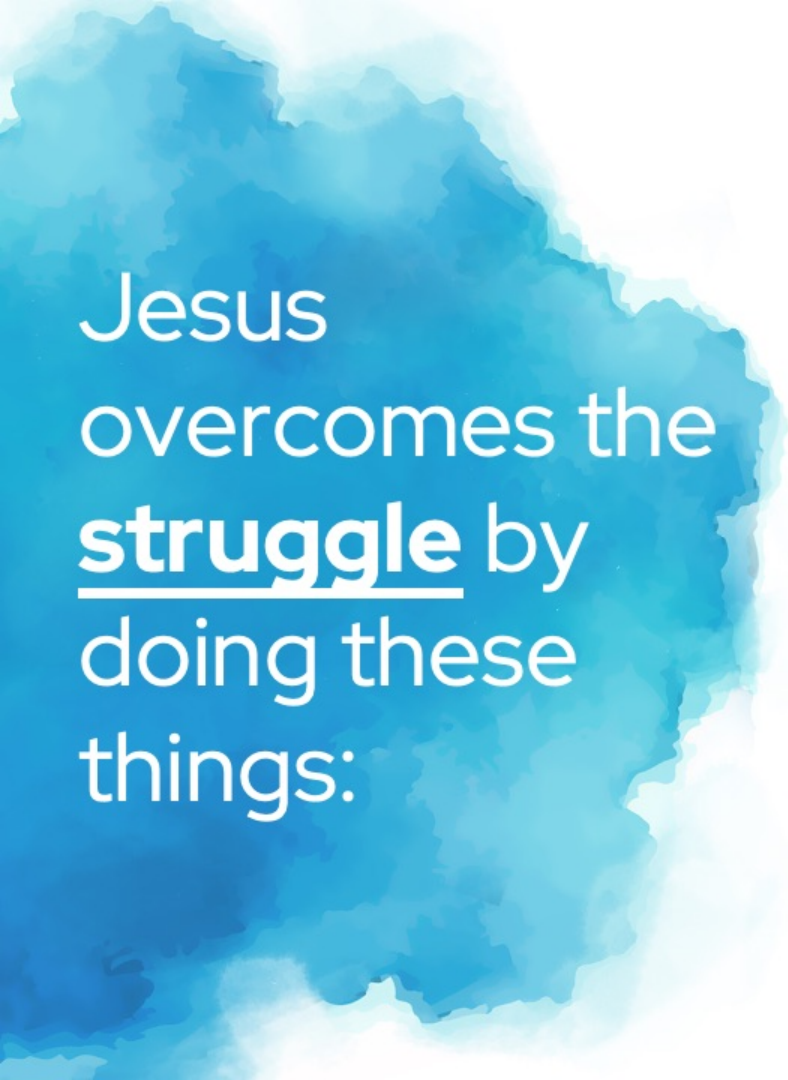
Mark 14:32-36 NLT

³⁵He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by.

³⁶"Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."



Jesus
overcomes the
struggle by
doing these
things:

A blue watercolor-style background on the left side of the slide, with varying shades of blue and white, creating a soft, textured effect.

Jesus
overcomes the
struggle by
doing these
things:

- Jesus **acknowledged** the situation—“My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death.”

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- Jesus went to His **Father**—He prayed...

Jesus
overcomes the
struggle by
doing these
things:


- Jesus acknowledged the situation—"My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death."
- Jesus went to His Father—He prayed...
- Jesus put all His trust and faith in His Father—"Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Jesus came to a point of decision in Gethsemane. It wasn't that He had not decided nor consented before, but now He came upon a unique point of decision.

He drank the cup at Calvary, but He decided once for all to drink it at Gethsemane. The struggle of the cross was won at the Garden of Gethsemane.

A blue watercolor splash background with varying shades of blue and white, creating a soft, textured effect. The splash is centered on a white background.

When we trust Him, and
only when we trust Him, is
there authentic
fulfillment and joy.



Have you really put your faith and
total trust in the Lord or do you
find yourself **stuck** in the **middle**?

