

# Welcome to Rosedale

Sunday April 6, 2014

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

Musical Praise & Worship

Missions Spotlight.....Cory Thiessen (OM)

Family Prayer

Scripture Reading..... Judges 6

Message..... Pastor John Bellingham

## GIDEON: THE RELUCTANT SAVIOUR

Lord's Supper

Final Song

Benediction

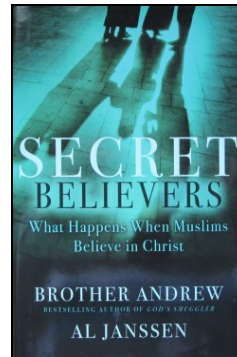
### Memory Work for Junior Church:

#### Younger Elementary

“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things from your law.” Psalm 119:18

#### Middle Elementary

### New in the Rosedale Library:



#### “SECRET BELIEVERS”

A book by Brother Andrew. This is the riveting true story of the Church in Islamic countries struggling to come to grips with hostile governments, terrorist acts, and an influx of Muslims coming to Christ.

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### Families of the Week

Please remember to encourage and pray for the following families this week.

<b><u>Monday</u></b>	Sadowski, Stella
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	Sarides, Costa & Isabel
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	Sarides, Daniella
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	Sarides, Nick
<b><u>Friday</u></b>	Schoenfeldt, Eileen
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	Schoenfeldt, Jeffrey

# Rosedale Baptist Church



Reaching up....

Reaching in....

Reaching out...

11 Rosedale Place  
Welland, ON L3B 1J2  
905-735-0788  
Pastor: John C. Bellingham

[www.rosedalebaptistwelland.com](http://www.rosedalebaptistwelland.com)

## This Week at Rosedale

Monday: Youth Group – 6:30pm

Wednesday: Senior's – 12:00 pm  
Prayer and Praise – 7:00 pm

Friday: Young Adults – 6:30 pm

Saturday: Ladies' Study – 8:00 am

Sunday: Christian Foundations – 9:00 am  
Corporate Worship – 10:30 am

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**Easter Missions Offering:** On Easter Sunday we will be taking a special collection for the ministry of Dr. and Mrs. Kishore (New Life Associates, India).

**Easter Breakfast:** Sign up in the foyer if you would like to attend Easter breakfast at 9am, before the morning service. If you are available to help cook or clean up, please speak with Anita Nagy.

**Out of Office:** Please note that Pastor John will be away at a Conference until Friday. If you need Pastoral care please contact one of the other Elders - Glen Johnston or Joe Nagy.

**Church Supplies:** Help us stock up on supplies that are regularly used for fellowship events. Please take a tab from the foyer and return the item(s) to Anita. Thank you in advance!

**Open Arms Fundraising Luncheon:** Friday April 11<sup>th</sup>, 12pm-2pm here at Rosedale. Catered lunch, door prizes and a free will offering for Open Arms Mission. Please RSVP by calling 905-788-3800 or emailing: caitlin.oam@gmail.com.

## Gideon: The Reluctant Saviour – Judges 6

- As we begin to study the 'Gideon cycle' this morning we are going to meet one of Israel's most reluctant heroes!

- In this passage Gideon raises three objections that many of God's people continue to struggle with:

### **I. Objection 1: God, You Don't Care (vv. 1-13)**

- 1) Israel's Dire Situation
  - a. Midianites: Friends turned foes!
  - b. Extreme poverty and famine due to theft
- 2) God's Response to Israel's Sin
  - a. A Sermon instead of a Saviour!
    - i. Sudden alteration in the 'cycle apostasy' grabs our attention
    - ii. The prophet repeats the message of the Angel from 2:1-2

**Application:** God desires true repentance, not superficial remorse! (2 Cor 7:10)

- b. God chooses a Deliverer
  - i. God's sovereign initiative in salvation begins even before His people repent!
  - ii. God's election of Gideon
    1. An idol-worshipper
    2. A fearful coward (note the irony when the angel calls him a 'mighty man of valour')
- 3) Gideon's Response to God's Call
  - a. God doesn't care! (vv. 12-13)
  - b. Gideon wrongly sees 'trouble' as evidence that God has abandoned Israel

**Application:** Don't assume that difficulties in your life are a sign of God's absence!

- God's fatherly discipline?
- Effects of life in a fallen world?

- God's purposes are always being worked out through our pain!

### **II. Objection 2: God, You Can't Use Me (vv. 15-16)**

- 1) Gideon's self-effacing excuse
  - a. He's right in the sense that we can do nothing for God in and of ourselves
  - b. He's wrong in the sense that God can't use ordinary people to accomplish His purposes
  - c. Gideon's excuse is mirrored in Scripture by both Moses (Ex 4:10-13) & Saul (1 Sam 9:21)
- 2) God's response: "I'm with you!" (cf. Ex 3:12)

**Application:** God does not need us, but He uses us anyway, and promises us His presence and power to accomplish the mission

### **III. Objection 3: God, I Don't Trust You (vv. 17-40)**

- 1) Gideon's First Request for a Sign (vv. 17-24)
- 2) A Trembling Step of Obedience (vv. 25-27)
  - a. The 'syncretism' of Israelite religion
  - b. God's demand for exclusive allegiance
  - c. Gideon's struggle with faith – *"Surely, while we teach that faith ought to be certain and assured, we cannot imagine any certainty that is not tinged with doubt, or any assurance that is not assailed by some anxiety."* – John Calvin
  - d. God's supernatural empowerment (v. 34)
- 3) Gideon and his 'fleece'
  - a. Gideon's request for further evidence of God's will is a sign of unbelief
  - b. The 'fleece incident' is a dark blot on Gideon, not a model that Christian should follow today.
  - c. What's more remarkable than the miracle of the fleece is God's patience with Gideon!

**Application:** When God's will is clearly revealed in His Word, the appropriate response is to obey.