**Questions for Connect Groups**

1. Think about fears you have had and, if you feel able, share them with the group. How did you feel about them at the time and how do you feel now?
2. We know from earlier sermons that Gideon felt weak and doubted his call from God. How much do you think that contributed to the fear he had when answering God’s command to pull down the altar to Baal?
3. What do you think of the notion that other gods and idols still exist today, albeit in a different way from Gideon’s time? Are you able to identify any?
4. Gideon feared his family. Do you think he was right to do so? How has your family situation past and present influenced your attitudes and beliefs? Are there issues that need to be addressed?
5. Gideon also feared the townspeople. Do you think we try to fit in too much to what our neighbours, friends and workmates expect? In what ways do you think we could be more distinctive?
6. Working together try to come up with your own definition of faith. To what extent does that work for you so far in your life?
7. Do you agree that faith is the appropriate antidote to fear? If so, can you share examples of this working out, maybe in your life or others?
8. Gideon’s journey of faith appears to have taken place in steps and in fits and starts. Surely it would have been easier for God to choose someone else as his mighty warrior?

Why do you think he chose Gideon and worked this way in his life? What lessons are there for us as individuals and when we think about the best types of Christian leaders?