



Act I Scene 1: With the Flow

By Matthew Cook

Summary: We meet the main character John Rivera, and get introduced to some of the other main characters for the series (Wilson, Bang, Replay, Sigma, Agent Mulroy, and Doctor D). We see Rivera getting his powers and experimenting with them, and we see Dr. D's plan for evil. We get introduced to The Agency with "The Stooges" and the studying of other individuals with special powers (Replay, Sigma) as well as Agent Mulroy. Their goal is

"To help those with certain gifts find a purpose for them... we seek those with the desire to help others in very particular ways, using those certain gifts." (Agent Mulroy, p.24).

By the end of this section Rivera joins the agency and we see him training and getting used to his gifts. Jeb ends by saying

"The work done here is of the utmost importance. Believe me when I say, there is more going on than most people know... it won't be easy but it will always be worth the effort. These gifts were given for a reason, and now you've been called to use them." (Jeb, p.27)

1. At the beginning of this story, Rivera has a life changing experience when he falls into the vat of mysterious liquid. Have you ever had a life changing experience? One where you are left permanently different because of what you experienced?
2. Everyone at the Agency has unique skills that set them apart from other people. If you were invited to the Agency, what do you think your unique skill would be?
3. We learn that Rivera joins the military because American soldiers helped him escape El Salvador as a child when the cartel attacked his village. Why do you think this is an important part of Rivera's identity? How does this shape his actions and outlook on life?



4. Read Judges 6:1-32. In Judges 6 we learn about a man named Gideon who has some similar qualities to Rivera. The Israelites seem to be in a similar situation of war like the one that Rivera was in. How is this outside conflict shaping the ways Gideon acts? His view on God's character?
5. When the fight breaks out between Dr. D, Rivera, Mulroy and Dr. D's goons, Dr. D sees something in Rivera that Rivera does not yet see. What do you think Dr. D knows?
6. Gideon doesn't seem to have any special powers. When we meet him, he is threshing wheat in a winepress (something usually done outside) to hide from the surrounding enemies, and he says in Judges 6:15 "My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." What does God see in Gideon? How might this be similar to what Jeb sees in Rivera, on page 27?
7. We see that God calls Gideon a "mighty warrior" and says that God will save Israel from the Midianites through Gideon, but Gideon is unsure of this. He seeks out a sign to know that this is really God speaking to him and waits to act on what God is calling him into. Rivera similarly is slow to act and accept his place in The Agency. He wants to follow the orders of the Army and has a hard time stepping away from those for a greater mission. They both however overcome this slowness to act and end up joining the greater mission they have been called to. What do you think was the tipping point for each character? What can we learn from each of them?
8. In Judges 6:25-32 we see God asking Gideon to tear down his father's idol to a false God and replace it with an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel. Gideon does so, but he does it at night because he is afraid of what might happen to him. However, Gideon trusted God and God provided for Gideon. What might God be asking you to tear down in order to follow the calling he has on your life? What might be causing you to wait to do this?

Closing prayer: God, thank You for Your guidance in our lives. Please be patient with us when we, like Gideon or Rivera, resist Your calling. Give us courage and wisdom to be the mighty warriors You designed us to be. In the name of Jesus, amen.

