



Gideon

Navigating Faith's Journey

- 1 Study 1** Learning from History
- 2 Study 2** Beginning at Home
- 3 Study 3** Leading by Example
- 4 Study 4** Gaining Courage with God
- 5 Study 5** The Road's not Straightforward

Gideon

Navigating Faith's Journey



Study 1

Learning from History

Israel's Evil

In what way had Israel done evil?

H

HISTORY



IDOLATRY

Judges

2v11-13 “did evil” They served Baal & Ashtaroth

3v7 “did evil” They served Baalim & the groves

4v1 (5v8) “did evil” They served new gods

HERE WAS NO DIFFERENT!

6v10 – “they served other gods”

6v25 – “they served Baal & the groves

**“... what we learn from history is ...
.... that no-one learns anything from history.”**

God's 7-Year Punishment

Idolatry would mean punishments 7 x more!

Lev 26

vv1-13

Following God would mean:

- Food provided in abundance
- Protection given in strength & shelter
- Be amongst them

vv14-39

Forsaking God would mean:

- Punish them 7 x for their sins
- Break His covenant with them
- Make land desolate to enjoy "Sabbaths"

v18

7 x for Sins

v21


7 x more Plagues

v28

7 x more Chastening's

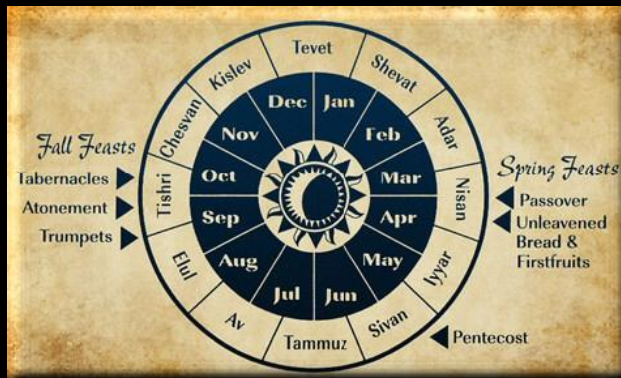
v16	They would sow seed in vain & enemies eat it	Jud 6v3
v20	The land shall not yield her increase	Jud 6v4
v22	Destroy cattle & make them few in number	Jud 6v4-5

The Midianites

- 
- Gen 25v2-4 – Decedents of Abraham via Keturah
 - Ex 2v15 – Resided originally in Edom but moved around – cp. Moses
 - Jud 1v16 – Had understanding of truth (Jethro) & some relocated with Israel into promised land
 - Num 22-31 – Those who stayed mixed with Moabites & served idols
 - Num 25,31 – Kings of Midian slain by Moses for incident at Baal Peor
 - They became nomadic merchant men steeped in idolatry
 - Midian – Heb – ‘Strife & Contention’ & that’s what they brought!!!

Greatly Impoverished

The Midianites had Israel all “Sown Up”



1

FEAST OF PASSOVER

Deliverance from Egypt

1

FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Celebrate no wickedness or Idolatry

3

FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

Yahweh's blessings for abundance

Lev 26v16

After 7 Years

Destroyed the
INCREASE of the
land

They ruined the **FRUITFULNESS** of
Yahweh's blessings

Left no
SUBSTANCE for
Israel

They left no ability to **MAINTAIN**
LIFE amongst herds & cattle

History Repeated

Came like Grasshoppers to destroy it

Num 31v6-11 – Moses destroys Midianites

“... slew **ALL** males, took **ALL** Midianite woman & little ones captive, took spoil of **ALL** cattle, **ALL** flocks, **ALL** goods, burnt **ALL** cities & **ALL** castles with fire.”

**200 YEARS
LATER ...**

**Midianites
were back
for
REVENGE!**



Lessons for Us



How do we respond to trials?

Trials are God's way of teaching us to **trust Him**

OUR ATTITUDE TO TRIALS?

Bitter? Vs. Better?

"FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVETH HE CHASTENETH & SCOURGETH EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVETH" Heb 12v6

God's Covenant

Prophet taking nation back to their covenant

Josh 24	Joshua & The Prophet	Jud 6
v2	Thus saith Yahweh Elohim of Israel	v8
v17	I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage	v8
vv5-12	Delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians & all those that oppressed you	v9
v18	Drive out others from before you & gave you their land	v9

v18 "Serve Yahweh, for He is our God"

v24 "Yahweh our God we will serve"

God's Covenant

Prophet taking nation back to their covenant



STATUTE

A decree or
something prescribed

**A COVENANT
TO BE OBSERVED**

ORDINANCE

A legal judgement

**A LEGALLY
BINDING LAW**

v18 "Serve Yahweh, for He is our God"

v24 "Yahweh our God we will serve"

The Story of Shechem

God helps Gideon with lessons from history



ABRAHAM'S ALTAR

The Altar of God's

WORSHIP

Gen 12v6



JACOB'S OAK

The Oak to

BURY IDOLS

Gen 35v1-5



JOSHUA'S STONE

The Stone of witness

COVENANT

Josh 24v26-27

GIDEON

6v24 THE ALTAR

6v11 THE OAK

6v20 THE STONE

The Story of Shechem

God helps Gideon with lessons from history

Emphasis on this Rock

- v19** – brought out (the present) unto him under the oak
- v20** – Lay them upon **THIS ROCK**
- v21** – Fire came out of **THE ROCK**
- v26** – Build an altar unto Yahweh thy God upon the top of **THIS ROCK** in the ordered place



JOSHUA'S STONE

The Stone of witness

COVENANT

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God's Message

Gideon to be Moses II to deliver Israel

Judges	Gideon – Moses II	Exodus
6v12	Angel appeared unto him	3v2
6v12	Yahweh is with thee	3v12
6v14	Yahweh looked upon him	2v25
6v14	Go in thy might, have not I sent thee	3 & 4
6v15	Gideon's response – "who am I"	3v10,13,14
6v16	Smite the enemy in ONE go	14v28

**GIDEON'S RESPONSE
WAS JUST WHAT GOD
HAD SAID THEY'D SAY**

**Moses' Song
Duet 31 & 32**
They failed to pass on the
message to the next generation

Looked Upon Him

Significant expression used in the Exodus

Exod 2v23 - 25

“... & their cry came up unto God by reason of their bondage, & God heard their groaning, & God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, & with Jacob & **GOD LOOKED UPON** children of Israel, & God had respect unto them.

Exod 4v31

“... & the people believed & when they heard that Yahweh had visited the children of Israel & that He **HAD LOOKED UPON** their affliction, then they bowed their heads & worshipped.”

GOD INCLINES HIMSELF TO HIS PEOPLE AGAIN & SENDS A SAVIOUR

Lessons for Us



Learning to REMEMBER like God does

God has recorded many characters & examples in His Word to teach us to remember He NEVER will forget or abandon us!



**LOOKING BACKWARDS
HELPS US TO LOOK FOWARD**

**HISTORY HELPS US TO REMEMBER THAT GOD WILL
ALWAYS REMEMBER HIS PROMISES & HIS PEOPLE**



Study 2

Beginning at Home

The Story of Shechem

God helps Gideon with lessons from history



ABRAHAM'S ALTAR

The Altar of God's

WORSHIP

Gen 12v6



JACOB'S OAK

The Oak to

BURY IDOLS

Gen 35v1-5



JOSHUA'S STONE

The Stone of witness

COVENANT

Josh 24v26-27

GIDEON

6v24 THE ALTAR

6v11 THE OAK

6v20 THE STONE

Lessons for Us



**We need to get comfortable with
UNCOMFORTABLE RESPONSIBILITIES**

GIDEON

Felt no inclination to lead

MOSES

Felt utterly inadequate

BARAK

Struggled with his role

JEREMIAH

Felt inexperienced & useless

“Here am I – Send me”

Asking for Signs

When do we ask for signs & expect answers?



Principles

1. Explore motivation first - Why are we asking?
Is our request God-centred or self centred?
2. There is a difference between asking for God's blessing & asking for a sign!
3. Requests for signs generally should request support for HOW to achieve His purpose.
4. Requests for signs generally should not be "testing God" to prove to us WHAT His purpose is.

Gideon's Offering

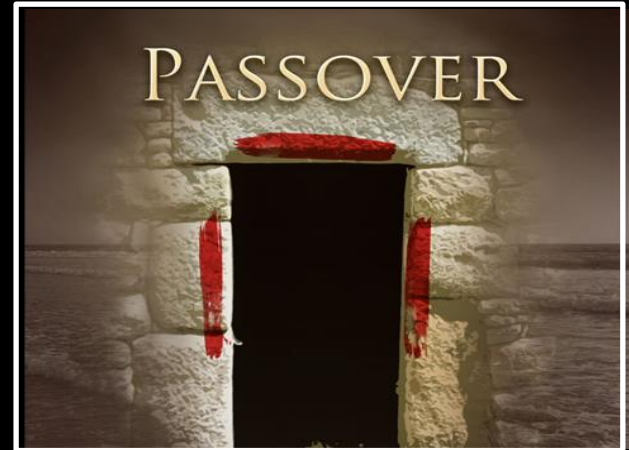
God shows Gideon what was required



GIDEON'S OFFERING
BOILED

Flesh in Basket
Broth in a Pot
Unleavened Cakes

v18 - "Set it before thee"



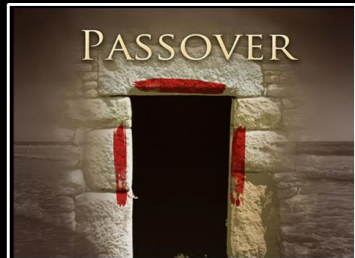
YAHWEH'S OFFERING
ROASTED

Put back together &
totally burnt with Fire

v20 - "Lay it upon this Rock"

Gideon's Offering

God shows Gideon what was required



YAHWEH'S OFFERING
ROASTED

Put back together &
totally burnt with Fire

God's Education for Gideon

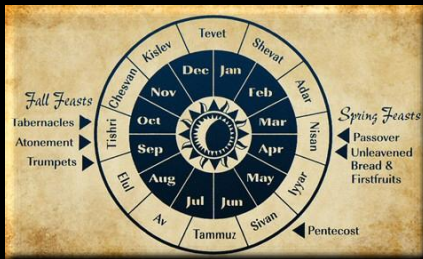
Ex 12v5	Lamb – either of sheep or goats	6v19
Ex 12v3-4	Lamb according to size of home	6v19
Ex 12v8	Eaten with unleavened bread	6v19
Ex 12v9	Not sodden but roasted with fire	6v21
Ex 12v10	Nothing remain until morning, rest consumed by fire	6v21
Ex 12v11	Eaten with staff in their hand	6v21

GIDEON REQUESTED "A SIGN"

"And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. And it shall be **for a sign** unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt." **Exod 13v8-9**

God's Next Request

Passover leads into Feast of Unleavened Bread



1

FEAST OF PASSOVER

Deliverance from Egypt

1

FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Celebrate no wickedness or Idolatry

Exod 12v19 - 20

“Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land. Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread.”

Idolatrous Practice

Baal & Asherah were worshipped at this time



The Altar of **Baal**

The god of
Blessing & Fertility

THE SUN

PROSPERITY

“thrown down”

The Grove of **Asherah**

The god of
Fun & Pleasure

THE MOON

PLEASURE

“cut down”



The Second Bullock

Did Gideon use ONE or TWO bullocks?



Bullock of 7 Years

Represented Joash & his family
(as symbolic of Israel)

Gideon was going to cut them free
from Idolatry to sacrifice the
nation on God's altar to start the
true worship of Yahweh again

**THE BULLOCK WITH STRENGTH
WOULD CHANGE TO SERVE YAHWEH**

Lessons for Us



**To inspire others we first have
to BEGIN AT HOME!!!**

**STOP
PURSUING
ACTIONS OF
SELF-
RELIANCE**

**START
SERVING GOD
MORE &
GIVING TO
OTHERS**



**The Altar of
Baal**
The god of
Blessing & Fertility
THE SUN

PROSPERITY

**The Grove of
Asherah**

The god of
Fun & Pleasure
THE MOON



PLEASURE

WORSHIP OF SELF

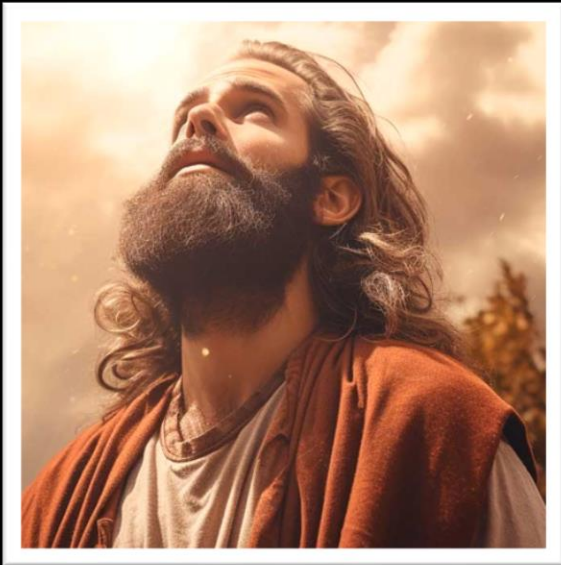
**It's only when we
SERVE that God can
work through us**

**STOP
ALWAYS
THINKING
ABOUT
OURSELVES**

**START
BUILDING
MEMORIES &
FRIENDSHIPS**

Joash & Jerubbaal

Joash emerges a new man



Jerubbaal

Heb. 'Let Baal Plead'

Joash establishes Gideon as a **LIVING WITNESS** to prove that Baal did not exist!

**GIDEON'S COURAGIOUS EXAMPLE
INSPIRED PEOPLE TO RESPOND**



Study 3

Leading by Example

The Spirit of Yahweh

Some inner involuntary moving inside Gideon?



Faithful Response

- Jephthah – Judges 11v29
- Samson – Judges 13v25
- Saul – 1 Sam 10v10

An emotional response that drives us for spiritual reasons to take action for God

**THEY EACH FELT DRIVEN TO
RESPOND FOR GOD & HIS PURPOSE**

Blew a Trumpet

Why Blow a Trumpet (Ram's Horn)



Num 10v3

1

**CALL THE
ASSEMBLY
TOGETHER**

2

**TO SOUND
AN ALARM**

"If ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; & ye shall be remembered before Yahweh your God, & ye shall be saved from your enemies."

Num 10v9

**GIDEON CALLING THE NATION
TOGETHER & ASKING GOD'S HELP**

Gideon's Request

Why does Gideon request a further sign?



"By Mine Hand"

**GIDEON'S
CONFIRMING THAT
NOW WAS THE TIME
TO FIGHT & THAT GOD
WOULD SUPPORT HIM**

KEYS

THE FLEECE

Rep. Gideon – By my hand

THE DEW

Rep. Yahweh's blessings
(Gen 27v23, Deut 22v13,28)

THE DRY GROUND

Rep. Israel "all the ground"
WITHOUT GOD'S BLESSING
NB. "ALL" - (6v37,39,40, 7v1)

Gideon's Request

How will the water be transferred?

1



"By Mine Hand"

**GIDEON WAS
ENSURING
GOD WOULD
BE WITH HIM**

2



"All the Ground"

**WOULD GOD
BE WITH HIS
MEN IN THE
SAME WAY?**

Gideon's Request

How will the water be transferred?



"By Mine Hand"

**6v39 – Let me
PROVE, I pray
thee ...**



"All the Ground"

**7v4 – God
says "I will
TRY them for
thee**

The Hill of Moreh

It was going to be the start of Spiritual Planting

“My **Doctrine** shall drop as the **rain**, my **speech** shall distill as the **dew**, as the small rain upon the tender herb & as showers upon the grass, because I will publish the name of Yahweh.”

Deut 32v1-2

**Heb – To ‘shoot forth’
or to ‘teach’**

Root word – ‘Moreh’ - the early rains

The “Moreh” rains heralded the end of Summer & the time for ploughing & planting

**THE NATION WAS ABOUT TO
BURST BACK INTO LIFE!**

The Well of Harod

Fitting description of Gideon's Men

**Heb – Well of
Trembling**

Water that came up constantly
bubbled up troubling the
surface of the water



**GOD WOULD PROVE HE'D WIN
WITH ANYONE WHO TRUSTED HIM**

God's Training

Mine Hand? Gideon learns how God would win!

6v14

Thou shalt save Israel out of
the hand of Midianites

7v2

No-one to say, "mine own
hand hath saved me"

7v7

By 300 men will I save YOU &
deliver Midianites into thine hand

**GIDEON
LEARNS**



7v15 – "Yahweh hath delivered into
YOUR HAND the host of Midian

Looking for Attitudes

God trains Gideon to look at the Heart!

GROUP 1

22,000 men

**DOUBTFUL &
AFRAID**

Deut 20v8

**FEAR IS
CONTAGIOUS**

GROUP 2

9,700 men

**SELF ASSURED &
OVERCONFIDENT**

**THEY TRUSTED
THEMSELVES**

GROUP 3

300 men

**TREMBLING YET
FAITHFUL**

**TRUST IN GOD'S
HAND TO SAVE**

Looking for Attitudes

God trains Gideon to look at the Heart!

GROUP 1

22,000 men

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Deut 20v8

**FEAR IS
CONTAGIOUS**

Deut 20v3 - 8

“Let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them for Yahweh your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.”

PROVISIONS FOR NOT GOING TO WAR

1. Built a new house (not dedicated it)
2. Planted a new vineyard (hadn't eaten of it)
3. Engaged but not yet married
4. Fearful and fainthearted? let him go and return unto his house ...

... lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart!!!

Lessons for Us



How do we “select” people for jobs?

“God looketh not as man seeth ... for He looketh upon the heart.”



ATTITUDE
MUST COME BEFORE
APPTITUDE

Looking for Attitudes

God trains Gideon to look at the Heart!

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Lessons for Us



Feeling TOO cocky in the Truth?

"Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall."



"God looks unto him that is of a
**POOR &
CONTRITE HEART
& THAT
TREMBLETH AT
MY WORD"**

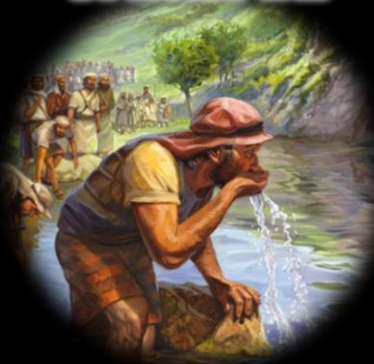
Spirit of the 300 Men

How do we adopt the right spirit?

GROUP 3

300 men

TREMBLING YET
FAITHFUL



TRUST IN GOD'S
HAND TO SAVE

1 COMPASSIONATE (6v34-35)

- They respond to their brethren's call for help

2 FAITHFUL (7v3)

- They are not utterly dismayed & fearful

3 LEAN ON GOD (7v5)

- They trust in God & not in their own strength



Study 4

Gaining Courage with God

The 300 Men

Gideon “RETAINED” those 300 men



“Retained”

Heb – ‘to strengthen, support & to make strong”

Gideon goes about to ENCOURAGE the 300 men to be strong & trust in Yahweh’s ability to deliver them.

**... Whilst they peered over the ledge
at the Hordes of Midianites!!!**

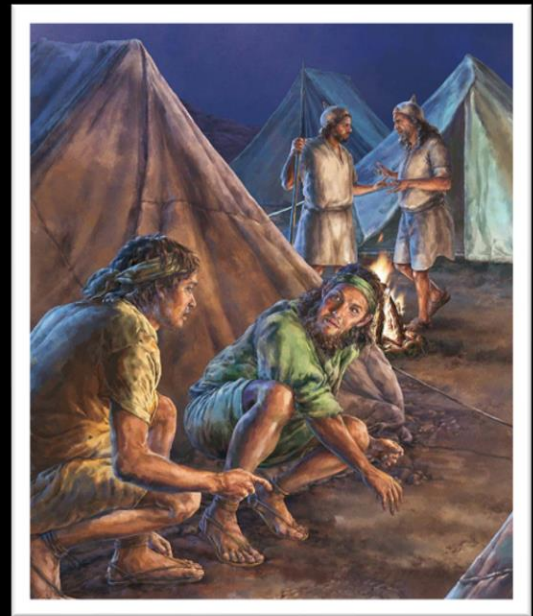
God had **ALREADY** Won

“Arise ... For I HAVE delivered it into thine hand”

BUT IF THOU FEAR?

cp.v3 – Same word as “**FEARFUL**”

But different - Gideon believed God
would deliver them but was still
FEARFUL to go it alone!



**TRUSTING GOD DOESN'T MAKE US
COMPLETELY FEARLESS**



Lessons for Us



Acknowledging we need support ISN'T FAILURE!

In life, we need to put up our hand & ask for help (there should be no shame in this)



We need to Help & Support Others!

God has commanded each of us to support & strengthen one another to the Kingdom

**“Esteem his brother better than himself”
& “Look on the things of Others”**

Thinking Differently

Gideon's appreciation for 300 men changes

"The People"

w1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

Not really warriors but
"people" gathered to fight.

**Just 300 Men
(vv6,7,8)**

"Host of Midian"

w1,8,9,11,13,14

The innumerable Host as
"armed men" without number

**The Armed Host
(v11)**

**But after Gideon returns,
look who he comes back to ... v15!!!**

Thinking Differently

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w1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

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(vv6,7,8)

The Army of the
"GOD WHO PREVAILS"



... HE COMES BACK TO ...
"THE HOST OF ISRAEL"

The Dream Explained

What does Gideon hear to changes his view?

Cake of Barley Bread

- Primarily food for horses – 1 Kings 4v28
- Half the price of wheat – 2 Kings 7v1,16
- Eaten when wheat failed – Ezek 4v12

BARLEY - BREAD OF FAMINE & SIEGE



“Tumbled”

Heb. ‘to transform & to turn this way & that way, in every way” (Gen 3v24)

**THE BARLEY CAKE TRANSFORMED INTO A WEAPON WHICH
TURNED EVERY WHICH WAY TO DESTROY THE MIDIANITES**

SWORD OF THE LORD & OF GIDEON

Gideon's Weapons

Look at how Gideon arms his men

GIDEON ARMS HIS MEN

1 RAMS HORN TRUMPET



Leviticus 25

Blown after Day of Atonement to proclaim the Year of Jubilee –a time of Liberty & Release

2 LAMPS IN PITCHERS



2 Cor 4v7

Earthen vessels broken to reveal the treasure of the excellency of the power of God. Pitchers full of light!!!

Gideon's Homework



Look at Gideon's battle plan inspiration

1

Abraham

Genesis 14v14 - 15

"Divided himself against them" & "Pursued them"



2

Joshua

Joshua 6v20

"Priests blew trumpets" & "Shouted with a great shout"



3

Moses

Exodus 14v13,24

"The Morning watch" them" & "Stand still"



4

Barak

Judges 5v14 - 18

All the tribes respond to chase & kill the enemy



5

Ehud - Judges 3v27 - 28

"Blew a trumpet" & "Took Fords of Jordan"



Midianite Princes

Representative of the Host of Midianites



Oreb
The Raven

Unclean, uncouth, feeds
on dead flesh,
aggressive, harsh & lives
in desolate places

The Rock

Zeeb
The Wolf

Ferocious, evening
hunter, fights in packs,
picks of helpless &
destroys defenceless



The Winepress

Gideon starts to transfer the lesson he'd learnt

Lessons for Us



WE'VE GOT TO DO OUR HOMEWORK

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: & they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come"

1 Cor 10v11





Study 5

The Road's not Straightforward

Not Everyone's Happy

Gideon encounters different responses!

1



**MEN OF
EPHRAIM**

Resentful &
Indignant

2



**MEN OF
SUCCOTH**

Apathetic &
Inconsiderate

3



**MEN OF
PENUEL**

Callous &
Indifferent

4



**JETHER
FIRSTBORN**

Naive &
Immature

The Men of Ephraim

Resentful & Indignant

1



ATTITUDE

We'd have done a much better job if we weren't the last-minute ring ins!

Proud History – Isa 9v9, 23v4

Joshua's Tribe – Josh 24v30

Joseph's inheritance – Josh 24v32

Phineas' burying place – Josh 24v33

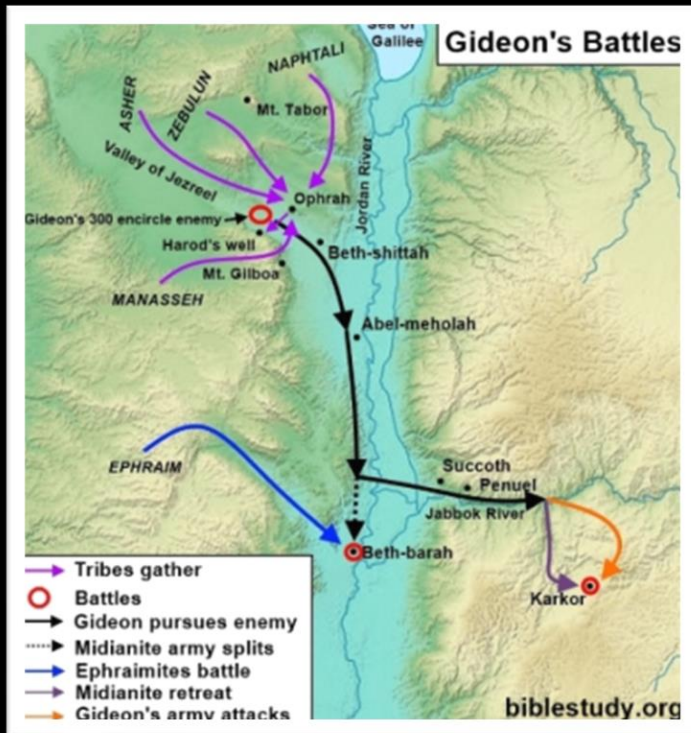
WARNING FOR US

- Just because we may have skills, this doesn't always mean God chooses to use us.
- If things are not done the way we like, do we dominate & take over?
- When giving "constructive feedback" let's remember God is working with others as well as ourselves.

Proverbs 15v1

The Battle

An Epic Battle and a 45km Marathon Chase!



The Men of Succoth

Hostile & Cowardly

2



ATTITUDE

**We're best to be
neutral & play
'Switzerland' & not
choose sides**



WARNING FOR US

- How often when issues arise are we "not prepared to take sides" & "declare" our position hoping the problem will go away?
- Do we ever sit by watching our bro's + sis's suffer because it will make our life messier by getting involved?
- Is it because we're too scared to stand up for what's right?

1 John 3v17

Gideon's Learning

To teach others what you've already been taught

**THE SPIRIT OF THE MEN OF EPHRAIM –
“rock & winepress”**

Judges 6v11-13

**THE SPIRIT OF MEN OF SUCCOTH –
“threshed”**

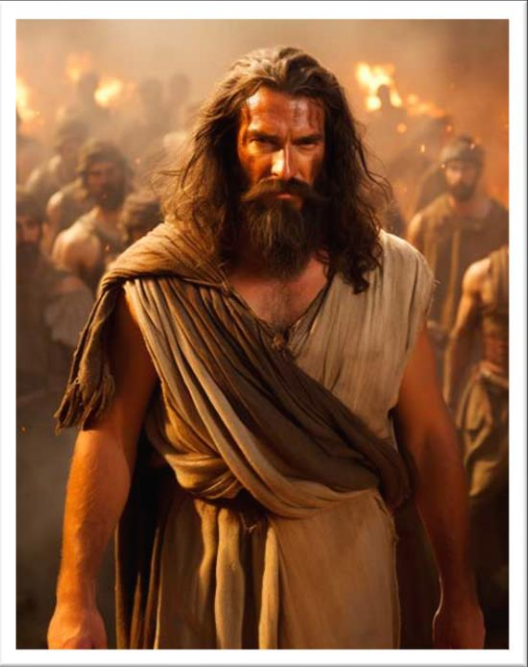
Judges 6v11

**THE SPIRIT OF MEN OF PENUEL –
“broken down”**

Judges 6v25

**THE SPIRIT OF JETHER (FIRSTBORN) –
“feared” - lead by example**

Judges 7v17



**GIDEON SAW HE HAD TO PASS ON
EVERYTHING GOD HAD TAUGHT HIM**

The Men of Penuel

Hostile & Cowardly

3



ATTITUDE

**Callously indifferent
because we're safe
& will not be
joining this battle!**



WARNING FOR US

- We can sometime retreat into our "ivory towers" or run away on holiday to avoid conflict.
- We can't think we're protected from the influences around us just because we're Christadelphians!
- Can't place our trust in anything other than God's ability to save.

1 Timothy 6v17-18

Jether - Firstborn

Hostile & Cowardly

4



ATTITUDE

**Naïve & fearful
I'm not sure I want
to (or need to) kill
these men**



WARNING FOR US

- As young people we often aren't fully aware or appreciate what has been done for us & why over the years. Listen & learn from elders!
- As older people we often aren't patient enough to listen & inspire young people to what is required in the truth.
- Inspiration by example rather than criticism by condemnation.

Gideon's Education

Trying to teach it was GOD's VICTORY not his!



"Thou hast delivered"

cp. 7v15, 8v3, 8v6

Gideon had been at pains to try and teach the nation that it was not his victory, but God's deliverance that saved & emancipated them!

**REINFORCE SEEKING YAHWEH
GIDEON MAKES AN EPHOD OF GOLD**

Gideon's Education

Why an Ephod of Gold?

A SYMBOL OF PRIESTHOOD & DIVINE COMMUNICATION

- A priestly garment – Lev 8v7
- All priests wore an ephod – 1 Sam 2v28, 22v18
- High Priests also shoulder stones (rep. 12 tribes of Israel – Exod 28v12)
- The high priests also had breastplate with Urim & Thummim in it – Exod 28v25-30



**EPHOD STOOD FOR PRIEST & THE
ROLE IN DIVINE COMMUNICATION**

The Mistake

Gideon makes a series of mistakes



The Mistakes

1

**FAILS TO
SEEK DIVINE
APPROVAL**

Appears that Gideon does not request divine blessing or approval!

2

**REQUESTS A
GIFT GIVEN
TO HIMSELF**

Appears people gave more as payment to Gideon for services than gifts to God

3

**PUTS THE
EPHOD IN HIS
OWN CITY**

Gideon creates an alternative centre of worship to the tabernacle in Shiloh

**RESULTED IN ACHIEVING THE VERY
OPPOSITE OF GIDEON'S INTENTION**

The Mistake

Gideon Repeats the same mistake as Aaron



Gideon & Aaron's Mistake

Judges 8		Exod 32
v27	Each seek to make a physical rep. of God	vv1,4
vv25-26	Requested golden earrings from ears (these were spoils of war)	v2 (3v22)
v24	Gifts were given to leaders to make something	v2,24
v27	Creations were a snare, causing idolatry & corrupting the people	v7
v27	Each became involved in the problem	vv21,25



“Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”



Gideon

Navigating Faith's Journey