

JUDGES 6-11

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE



WEEK IN REVIEW

As we continue through the book of Judges, we see the Israelites face consequences for turning away from God. Judges 6 begins saying, “The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites.” Fear filled the hearts of the Israelites and they hid from the Midianites in mountains, caves, and strongholds. An Angel of the Lord calls a man named Gideon to be a prophet and **judge**. As a reminder, a judge was a military and political leader for the people. He comes to Gideon and says, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” Gideon questions God and asks, “If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?” In other words, if God was really for them, then why were all these terrible things happening to them as a result of the Midianites. Gideon had felt as though the Lord had abandoned him and his people. The Lord replies, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?” Gideon gives an excuse for why this could not happen; he was the weakest member of the weakest tribe in Israel. Surely the Lord couldn’t use him!

Gideon destroys the **idol**, as he was instructed by God. An idol was any object, image, or representation that is worshiped as a god. The Israelites were often tempted to worship false gods, instead of the One True God. Gideon acted out of fear, and did what he was asked to do during the night. The Lord calls him to save Israel, and that task seemed intimidating to Gideon so he asks the Lord for a **sign**. A sign is an indication or confirmation of something. Gideon wanted to be extra certain that the Lord was with him, so he asked God to place a fleece on the threshing floor. If there was dew on only the fleece and the floor was dry, then he would know for sure that God was behind him. God fulfills this request. Gideon asks for a second sign, but the opposite, and God comes through on that as well.

Gideon now has to do what God tells him to do. Gideon gathers an army to take down the Midianites. The Lord said to Gideon, “There are still too many men.” Gideon eventually reduces his army from 32,000 to 300 and God uses those 300 men to defeat an army of 135,000. Gideon was held back by fear and insecurity. The call seemed too big and Gideon felt too small. God often asks us to do things that are bigger than what we are comfortable doing. However, He is not hindered by our weakness or insufficiency. 2 Corinthians 12 says, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” God often uses the unexpected people to do His work. Our ability to be used by God does not depend on us! When we can’t take the credit, that’s when He gets all the glory!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our ability to be used by God does not depend on us!
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call of Gideon • Gideon's army • Minor Judges • Jephthah & Ammonites
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judges 6:14-16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "The 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? 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.' The Lord answered, 'I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.'" • Judges 7:4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ But the Lord said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A judge was a military and political leader for the people • Idol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any object, image, or representation that is worshiped as a god • Sign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A sign is an indication or confirmation of something

Reflection Questions

1.	What did the Lord call Gideon? What did the Lord call him to do?
2.	What was Gideon's excuse for why he could not do this?
3.	What were the two signs that Gideon asks for?
4.	What does the stories of Gideon and his army teach us about the character of God?