

JUDGES

“Gideon and Baal’s Altar”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- How God used Judges to rescue God’s people
- That God’s people would turn away from God and come under oppression
- That God uses unlikely people to fulfill God’s plan
- God’s plan might not make sense, but it is always the right way

Series Theme Verse: “Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.” –Judges 2:16 (ESV)

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God uses unlikely people to fulfill God’s plan.

Lesson Passage: Judges 6:1-32

Materials Needed: Bibles, copy of word search for each student (page 4), pencil or highlighters, Series Theme Verse on poster, Jenga blocks

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points:

- Who did God use to rescue the Israelites from the Canaanites last week? (Deborah, Barak, and Jael)
- Read Judges 6:1-10
- Does Judges 6:1 sound familiar? The stories of all 3 of our judges have started out the same. Ehud – Judges 3:12 “Once again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord...” Deborah – Judges 4:1, “After Ehud dies, the Israelites once again did evil in the eyes of the Lord...” and now Gideon – Judges 6:1, “Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord...”
- Every time the Israelites choose to do evil in the eyes of the Lord what happens to them? (They are conquered by an enemy.)
- Who conquers the Israelites this time? (Midianites vs1)
- For how long? (7 years vs1)
- How do the Midianites and Amalekites treat the people of Israel? (oppressed them, forced them out of their homes, ruined their crops, and killed their livestock, basically left them with nothing vs2-6)
- How are the Midianites described in verse 5? (like swarms of locust, impossible to count, invaded the land)
- How do the Israelites respond? (They cry out to God for help. vs6)
- How does God answer their cries? (God sends an prophet vs8)

- What did the prophet tell the Israelites? (reminds them of what God did for them in Egypt and how God told them not to worship anything or anyone but God and how they did not listen vs8-10)
- Read Judges 6:11-24
- Who appears to Gideon? (an angel of the Lord vs12)
- What does the angel say to Gideon? (“The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” vs12)
- The angel tells Gideon that he will save Israel from the Midianites in verse 14. What is Gideon’s response? (How? I am from the smallest/weakest clan in all of Israel and I am the least in my family. vs15)
- Gideon didn’t think he was the right person for God’s job. Does this remind you of any other person? - Moses
- What does God tell Gideon? (I will be with you vs16)
- Gideon still wants a sign that it’s really God talking with him, so he prepares an offering, presents it before the angel of the Lord. What happens to the offering? (It is consumed by fire vs21)
- Gideon realizes and God says to him, “Peace, Do not be afraid...” and Gideon builds an altar to God there and it is called _____. (The Lord is Peace vs24)
- Read Judges 6:25-32
- The same night the Lord gives Gideon 5 instructions. What are they? (vs25-26)
 1. Take the 7 year old bull from your father’s herd
 2. Tear down the altar to Baal
 3. Cut down the Asherah pole
 4. Build a proper altar to God
 5. Offer the bull as a burnt offering
- Why do you think God wanted Gideon to tear down the altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole? (these were tools of idol worship, disobedience to God)
- Was Gideon obedient? (yes, he took 10 servants, but he did it at night vs27)
- Why do you think Gideon did this at night? (scared of what people might say, get in trouble, etc)
- How do people react when they see the altar torn down and the pole cut down? (Who did this? Bring him out. He must die. vs29-30)
- Who stands up for Gideon? (His father Joash vs31)
- Summarize the rest of the chapter (verses 33-40) and let the students know we will see what happens next in Gideon’s story next week.

The Story Retold:

- Give each student a copy of the word search.
- Let them work by themselves or with a partner to find all the words.

The Story and Me:

- Review the memory verse.
- Today Gideon had to tear down the altar of Baal.
- We are going to play Jenga. Have the Jenga blocks set up in one part of the room. To make it more difficult and go quicker you can already have pieces taken out.

- If you pull a block out successfully, then you must pick the next player to pull out a block.
- If you don't pull a block out successfully and the tower falls, then you must recite the verse.

Gideon and Baal's Altar

G R V B E T M H P W O H I X T
N K R Z H P I O T Y B S M S F
I G A O I D D U F G R W E L I
R I T Z T E I Z S A N K E U R
E D L E G N A R E B A E N H Z
F E A G E B N L T E C N R C I
F O T C J H I V W E Z M P T A
O N A M V T T W A R R I O R S
F E F Q E K E A O U K U D G C
P O S S V E S P S R N F M M H
X P O Q G T E A D I S W W D Z
H R W R M R Y Y B Y J H G R T
F Z O A P B S W R M Q X I N J
E C N E I D E B O D F L G P S
D Z X Z Q X K B D F Y C D J Q

ALTAR
ANGEL
FLEECE
GIDEON
ISRAELITES
MIDIANITES
OBEDIENCE

OFFERING
PEACE
PROOF
STRENGTH
WARRIOR
WEAKEST
WORSHIP