

Oct 16, 2022



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

God saw Gideon as “mighty.”
And just as God was with and
equipped Gideon, so He’s with us

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

God, I’m so thankful You don’t
see me as I see myself. Help me
to see myself as Your dearly loved
child capable of doing big and
small things in service to You

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

And the Angel of the Lord
appeared to him, and said to him,
“The Lord is with you, you
mighty man of valor!”

(Judg 6:12 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Nov 23, 2021)

**Series: God’s Exceptional
Choice**

**UNIT 2: Out of Slavery
to Nationhood**

NEXT WEEK

Who Is King
(1 Sam 8:4-7, 10:17-24)

The Call of Gideon Judges 6:1-2, 7-16

Lesson Background and Introduction

When we read the “big” stories of the Bible, we may be tempted to imagine that God works only or primarily through dramatic events. But countless “small” stories of generosity and faith have occurred through the centuries as God has worked through the hands and feet of believers (compare Mark 9:41; 12:42). When people of faith answer God’s call, the blessings of unexpected opportunities to serve follow. The book of Judges features accounts of a series of leaders (“judges”) who arose to rescue Israel from foreign oppressions during the era 1380 to 1050 BC. These stories fit together to paint a picture of a dreary pattern: the Israelites sinned, God punished them with foreign oppression, the Israelites repented, a deliverer came, and peace followed. Gideon, the deliverer-judge of today’s lesson, was the fifth of perhaps 14 judges; he served in that capacity during the first half of the twelfth century BC. The Midianites, the oppressors whom Gideon was to confront in today’s text, came from what is now northern Saudi Arabia or southeastern Jordan. They had created a sophisticated society based on trade across the Arabian Peninsula with the cultures around its perimeter (Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia; compare Genesis 37:28). They were not barbarians. The Midianites shared a history with Israel (see Exodus 18:1; etc.), a history that included conflict (see Numbers 25:14–18; Psalm 83:9–12).

Today’s text begins an account of how Israel experienced deliverance from an oppression. It draws on the most important Israelite story, the exodus, by pointing out the gap between the memory of the story and the present experience. God had delivered in the past, but he seemed no longer willing to do so. As with many stories of the call of prophets or kings, the hero here (Gideon) gets to express the confusion that the readers must also feel and that we may still feel when our beliefs and our experiences seem to clash. When that happens, we can get stuck brooding in an endless cycle of asking why, as Gideon did (compare Jeremiah 5:19; 13:22; 16:10; etc.). In that regard, it is important to note what is missing in Judges 6:14: the Lord did not answer Gideon’s why question of Judges 6:13. We are answerable to the Lord, not he to us (compare Job 38-41). Our why questions will not always be answered; sometimes the Lord will only tell us what’s next. Sometimes trouble can result when we try to run ahead of the Lord by assuming we know what’s next (examples: Numbers 14:39-45; Joshua 7:1-12). Gideon also seems to have allowed himself to fall into this trap later (Judges 8:24-28). Yet on balance Gideon was attentive to the Lord’s will. He refused to become king, insisting that God alone should rule Israel (Judges 8:22-23). Like all of us, Gideon experienced both successes and failures. When he heard the call to act, he stated his doubts openly, asking God for answers. But when God did not answer those questions, Gideon wanted miraculous signs (see 6:17-22, 36-40). It’s been said that there are two ways to learn things: by wisdom and by experience. Wisdom is when we learn from the mistakes of others; experience is when we learn from our own mistakes. The life of Gideon is recorded that we might learn from his successes and failures (compare Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Timothy 3:16). While his call differs from that of Christians, Gideon’s life still has much to teach us. The Lord still calls us to serve. He still says that he is with us (Matthew 28:19-20). But are we with him?

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Call to Deliver from a Sinful Situation (Judges 6:1-2)

Sin caused the situation (1)

Sin caused the situation because it grieved God's Spirit (Isa 63:10)

Sin caused the situation because it ensnares (Prov 5:22)

Sin caused the situation because it allows those who sin to dig their own hole to fall into (Ps 7:15-16)

Sin caused the situation because it is part of the punishment for the wicked (Jer 2:19)

Sin caused the situation because it is part of the wicked reaping what they sow (Gal 6:7)

Extent of the situation (2)

An extent that results in the punishment for the ungodliness and wickedness of man (Rom 1:18)

An extent that results in God's wrath being stored up because of man's stubbornness and unrepentant heart (Rom 2:5)

An extent that results in the consequence of God's wrath that comes on those who are disobedient (Eph 5:6)

An extent that comes from those things that are part of our sinful and earthly nature (Col 3:5)

Call to Deliver through Answered Prayer (Judges 6:7-10)

Answered prayer that results in God's response (7-8)

Results in God's response because God always hears the prayers of His saints (Ps 65:2)

Results in God's response because God knows all before the prayer is spoken (Isa 65:24)

Results in God's response because God promised that what is asked will be received (Matt 7:7-8)

Results in God's response because the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective (James 5:16)

Results in God's response because it is through prayer that we can approach God's throne of grace (Heb 4:15-16)

Results in God's response because Jesus is our intermediary in prayer (Heb 9:11-15)

Results in God's response because God is faithful (1 John 1:9)

Results in God's response because God cares for us (1 Peter 5:7)

Answered prayer that reminds us of past deliverances (9-10)

Reminder of deliverance from Satan (Matt 6:13)

Reminder of deliverance from deadly perils (2 Cor 1:10)

Reminder of deliverance from troubles (Ps 34:19)

Reminder of deliverance from trials (2 Peter 2:9)

Reminder of deliverance from temptations by providing a way out (1 Cor 10:13)

Call to Deliver through a Prophet (Judges 6:11-16)

Call of the prophet (11-12)

A call to service (Joshua 24:15)

A call to follow (1 Kings 18:21)

A call to holiness (2 Tim 1:8-9)

A call that requires us to listen to God (1 Sam 3:10)

A call that tells us what to do and where to go (Acts 9:5-8)

A call to be directed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:19-20)

A call that is irrevocable (Rom 11:29)

A call that is faithful (1 Thess 5:23-24)

Assignment of the prophet (13-14)

Assignment that requires being diligent (Matt 24:45-46)

Assignment that requires keeping watch (Mark 13:34-36)

Assignment into fellow workmanship (1 Cor 3:5)

Assignment of our place in life (1 Cor 7:17)

Assignment to consistently do God's work (Heb 6:10)

Assignment to steadfastly press on toward the goal God has set for us (Phil 3:14)

Assignment to do God's will (Heb 10:36)

Assignment to finish the work God has assigned us (John 4:34)

Assignment to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ (Phil 1:27)

Support of the prophet (15-16)

Excuses started in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:8-12)

Excuses of Moses (Exodus 4:10-12)

Excuses for not serving (Luke 9:59-62)

God promises to always be with His people (Matt 28:20)

God will never forsake His people (Deut 31:6)

God loves and will preserve His faithful ones (Ps 37:28)