

June 11, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

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

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Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

God uses ordinary people to carry out His extraordinary plan

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:

Gideon was an ordinary person. Gideon's obedience brought victory to Israel, and he is listed as one of the great heroes of faith in Heb 11:32)

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us
(2 Cor 4:7 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", July 8, 2015)

Series: God's Urgent Call

UNIT: Called to be Strong

NEXT WEEK

Jephthah

(Judges 11:4-11, 29-31)

Gideon **Judges 6:11-18**

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines the basic ingredients of the need, call and provision that God gave **Gideon**. The study's aim is to understand that God does not require the one receiving His call to be qualified for the task. The study's application is to learn to be open to the call of God without equivocating about one's qualifications.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Because of Israel's disobedience, the Lord sent the Midianites to oppress His people and judge them for their apostasy. The Midianites came from the land east of the Jordan and southward into the desert regions. For seven years, the Israelites suffered greatly at the hands of the Midianites, who came yearly to raid their land and steal their crops. When the Israelites cried out to the Lord for deliverance, God first sent them a prophet to remind them of their disobedience to the God who had brought them to this land (Judg. 6:7-10). Then the Angel of the Lord appeared to a man named Gideon (vs. 11). Gideon was to be the judge the Lord would use to deliver His people. So important was his role that his call came by way of this Angel. Here, as is often the case in the Old Testament, this title probably refers to the Lord Himself appearing in visible form (cf. 2:1-5). The Lord's words must have been striking to Gideon, who was threshing "wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites" (Judg. 6:11). Like his fellow countrymen, Gideon lived in fear of the armies of Midian as he tried to hide his harvest from them. In spite of the distressing situation for both Gideon and Israel, the Angel declared that the Lord was with him. As Gideon's initial response indicates, the Lord's presence was not in evidence as far as Gideon was concerned. The Lord had not intervened to deliver the people. Gideon made two false assumptions. First, he assumed that the oppression of Israel and the absence of miraculous acts of deliverance meant the Lord had abandoned His people. Second, he seemed to assume Israel was owed the Lord's deliverance in spite of their sin. We need to avoid such thinking ourselves. We cannot expect the Lord's blessing when we fail to follow Him. And even if we are following Him, we have no guarantee our lives will be easy. However, we always can be sure He is present and concerned about us, and He will act in our best interests in His own time and way. The second part of the message must have been equally astonishing to Gideon, for the Angel addressed him as "mighty man of valor." This title spoke of strength and bravery and is often used in the Old Testament to describe great warriors (cf. Josh. 8:3; 2 Kings 5:1; 1 Chron. 12:21). The title hardly seemed to fit Gideon, who was cowering in fear of the Midianites. Gideon even described himself as being poor and "the least in [his] father's house" (Judg. 6:15). Here is an important lesson for all of us. God sees us as capable of great things not because of our abilities but simply because He is with us. Gideon recognized his limitations but not what God could (can) do with a man of faith. It is true that Gideon did not have great faith; but he did have faith. The Lord nurtured that faith step by step until Gideon was willing to step out and lead just three hundred men to a great victory over a massive Midianite army. The miraculous deliverance Gideon had longed for finally came, and it came through him, a lowly, very imperfect man who simply acted in faith.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

God's Call (Judges 6:11-12)

God can call His people during normal working times (11)
God called Peter, James and John while they were fishing (Luke 5:4-8)
God called Samuel while he was sleep (1 Sam 3:7-10)
God called Matthew while he was collecting taxes (Luke 5:27-28)
God called the widow through Elijah while she was preparing her last meal (1 Kings 17:9-16)
When God calls, He is always with us (12)
With us because He is with us wherever we go (Josh 1:9)
With us because He promised He would be (Matt 28:20)
With us because God will never forsake us (Heb 13:5)
With us to protect us (Ps 37:28)
With us to uphold us (Isa 41:10)

Objections and Answers (Judges 6:13-16)

Objection about who it is happening to (13)
Objections because of feeling wronged (Job 19:4-7)
Objections because of bitterness (Job 27:2)
Objections because of feeling forsaken (Isa 59:9-11)
Objections because of seeing others in better situations (Jer 12:1)
Objections because of feeling God is slow in His deliverance (Hab 1:2-4)
Answer is being sent using God's strength (14)
God's strength through His grace (2 Cor 12:9)
God's strength because His arms are not too short (Num 11:23)
God's strength because He is the one who provides it to His people (Ps 68:35)
God's strength because He is mighty (Ps 93:4)
God's strength because He is the only one who can (Deut 3:24)
God's strength because God is strong (Ps 62:11-12)

Objection about weakness (15)

Weaknesses that started in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:8-12)
Weaknesses like what Moses gave that he couldn't talk (Ex 4:10-12)
Weaknesses like what Aaron gave about peer pressure (Ex 32:21-24)
Weaknesses that make one unfit for service (Luke 9:59-62)
Answer is God is with us (16)
God with us so that we can stand against life's trials (Josh 1:5)
God with us and applying His strength to help (Isa 41:10)
God with us to teach us to obey His Word (Matt 28:20)
God with us by having His Hand enabling our efforts to be successful (Acts 11:21)

Security Promised (Judges 6:17-18)

Security through signs (17)
God's gives signs of His faithfulness and compassion by renewing them every day (Lam 3:22-23)
God is faithful through His sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:13)
God showed His faithfulness through His sign of stopping the sun for a day (Isa 38:7-8)
God showed His faithfulness His sign of the Jews worshiping on His mountain (Ex 3:12)
Security through God's patience (18)
God's patience is manifested in grace, slowness of anger and love abounding (Psalm 103:8)
Patience that is tied to God's covenant (Ezekiel 16:60)
Patience that should lead to our repentance (Romans 2:4)
Patience that demonstrates God's justice (Romans 3:25-26)
Patience because God wants all to repent (2 Peter 3:9)