



Lesson 50: Gideon meets God

Scriptural Basis:



Judges 6

Overview:

Soon after Joshua's death, the Israelites turn to false gods. As a result of their disobedience, God stops protecting them from their enemies, which results in periods (years) of oppression that end when the people of Israel cry out to the Lord for His help. Over a period of about 300 years, the cycle of disobedience-oppression-relief happens many times, and God provides 15 different judges. Gideon is one of those judges, and, in this story, God uses Gideon, to tear down the altar of Baal.

Things to consider:

Both Moses and Joshua warned the Israelites that they would fail in their efforts to serve God faithfully.

The gospel in the story:



In this story, Gideon has a face-to-face encounter with Jesus, and is rightly terrified by it. However Jesus, shows He is the God of Peace. He came to save the Israelites from their disobedience, and show His greatness and sovereignty over sin and false gods.

Bible Study for Preparation:



- Read Judges 6. Consider the many ways, Gideon's encounter with Jesus foreshadows the coming of Jesus in the flesh:
- Israel is oppressed due to their sin
- They are unable to save themselves
- God sends Jesus to conquer Baal – the false god, and to bring salvation to Israel from the Midianites
- God gives peace to Gideon, and Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

Application:

Head: **What did we learn?**

Q: Why are the Israelites being oppressed by the Midianites? A: Because they have turned to worshipping the false god Baal.

Q: How does God respond when they cry out for help? A: He comes to visit Gideon

Q: What was Gideon's response when God commanded Gideon to save Israel out of Midian's hands?

A: Gideon asked how that could be possible (Gideon recognized his own inability to do such a thing).

A: God promised that He would be with Gideon.

Q: How did God show the people that Baal was a false God? A: He told Gideon to tear down the altar, then used Gideon's father to tell the people that if Baal was real, he would contend with Gideon for what he did

Heart : **Memory verse**

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matt 28:20

Hands: **How does this affect the way I live?**

Just as Jesus was Gideon's peace and strength, Jesus is the prince of Peace, and strength for all who put their faith in Him.

Home: **How does this affect my household?**

Joash recognized God's hand in Gideon's act, and wisely told the people of their town to let Baal fight his own battles. So God became Lord of Joash's household.

Heaven: **How does this help us share our faith?**

Having received God's saving grace through Jesus, we can live in a way that proclaims the true good news of Jesus and denies false gospels that abound in our culture.