



**“for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9**

## Bible Study:



Read Judges 6-9. Consider the many ways the nation of Israel needed to depend on God alone for their salvation:

- ⤴ Israel is oppressed due to their sin, and they are unable to save themselves
- ⤴ God has mercy on them when they call out to Him, but ensures that the victory will be attributed to Him
- ⤴ Gideon's weakness is evidenced throughout the story:
  - He tests God twice with the fleece
  - He needs reassurance, which God provides through the enemy's dream
  - He turns the battle into a personal vendetta against the Midian kings
- ⤴ He names his son Abimelech, which means "my father is king"

## The gospel in the story:



In this story, Gideon and the entire Israelite nation are the recipients of God's saving grace. Their predicament of being threatened by their enemies was of their own doing, having worshiped false gods. Yet God, in His faithfulness chose to have mercy and compassion on His chosen nation and deliver them from the Midianites. Though that did not fix the deeper problem of rebellious hearts marred by sin, God still had a larger plan that would bless the entire world of a gracious king and savior, Jesus who would once and for all, defeat Satan, sin and death.

## 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: Why doesn't God select a strong military leader to lead the battle against the Midianites? A: Because He wants to put His power on display.

Q: How many men does Gideon start with for his army?  
A: 32,000 men

Q: How many men does Gideon end up with after God trims down his army? A: 300 men

Q: What weapons does Gideon's army carry into battle?  
A: Trumpets and jars with torches.

Q: How is the midianite army defeated? A: God causes them to turn their own swords on each other

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

We need to recognize that sin causes us to have rebellious hearts that only God can fix through the cleansing blood of Jesus.

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

Gideon's sin of secretly desiring to be king of Israel (the name Abimelech means "my father is king"), brought about much destruction in Gideon's household. Godly households to submit to Jesus as King and leader of the home.

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

Our witness to others is often more powerful when we admit to our weakness, and proclaim God's strength!

### Heart: Memory verse

"for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2  
Corinthians 12:9