



# MOSAIC Gospel Project

## Volume 3, Unit 9, Lesson 3: Gideon

**Bible Passage:** Judges 6-8

### Personal Preparation

Judges 6 starts out in a familiar way: “The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.” The period of Judges was not a good time for the Israelites. Their cycle of sin, bondage, deliverance, and peace clearly showed the law alone could not save them from sin.

The Israelites were oppressed by the Midianites, and they cried out to God for help. God chose a man to save them, and his name was Gideon. Gideon was an unlikely leader, and he knew this. Gideon said, “Please, Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Look, my family is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s family” (Judges 6:15).

God doesn’t need the biggest and the best to accomplish his plan. In fact, he often uses the weakest and least of people to fulfill his plans because that is what gives him the most glory. God had a plan to empower Gideon in his weakness: “But I will be with you,” he said (Judges 6:16).

Gideon and an army of men assembled. God told Gideon he had too many men. God didn’t want the men to think they had the power to defeat the Midianites themselves. When the army was reduced to just 300 men, they prepared for battle (Judges 7:1-7).

The men ran toward the Midianites’ camp, blowing their trumpets and shouting. God turned the swords of the Midianites against each other. They ran away, but Gideon and his army chased after them and killed them.

God was with the Israelites when they went to battle. The Israelites did not win the battle themselves; God fought for them. As you teach the individuals this week, point out that God used Gideon in the victory. However, Gideon alone was not enough to save the Israelites. Only God could win the battle. In the same way, we are unable to save ourselves from sin. Jesus came to save us from our sin because he is enough. Only God, through Christ, can save us.

As you prepare to teach the lesson, thank God that he works in our weaknesses. Thank him for sending Jesus to save us when we were unable to save ourselves. Pray that the individuals would rejoice in the fact that God works in our weakness. Pray that they would know that Jesus has rescued us from sin, overcoming our greatest weakness.

### Memory Verse

Start the lesson by sharing the memory verse with the group.

#### 1 John 1:9

*“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”*

### Points of Emphasis

1. God showed Gideon that victory comes from him.
2. Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

## Activity #1

Guide the group to begin working on the activity sheet. Feel free to let them continue as you teach the lesson.

## Video

Israel had entered the promised land, but God's people repeatedly turned from him. When they did, he allowed their enemies to defeat them. When they remembered God and asked him for help, he sent judges to rescue them. Last week, we learned how God used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to rescue his people. Sadly, that was not the last time they would sin against God and be overtaken by enemies. Today, we will hear what happened when God raised up a man named Gideon to deliver his people from the nation of Midian.

Play the video for the lesson titled "Gideon."

## Bible Lesson

Well, I can't say I didn't expect this. God's people turned away from God—again. They chose to worship false gods and do what seemed right to themselves, without paying attention to what God had told them was right. What happened next showed more of the pattern. Enemies came in and took over, and after a while, the people of Israel remembered how much they needed God. They cried out to him, and he sent Gideon to rescue them from the Midianites.

I love this story because it is such a reminder of not only God's faithfulness, but also of God's power. God did not choose the strongest man from the most powerful family. He chose the youngest man from a weak family. God did not ask thousands and thousands of Israelites to fight against the army of Midian. Instead, God made Gideon's army smaller and smaller! God was going to prove that it isn't human strength that wins the day. God showed Gideon that victory comes from him.

You see, had Gideon charged into battle with the bigger, stronger army and won, the people might have said something like, "You know, God is okay, but we won because we are great fighters and powerful warriors. We don't need God, we have a big, huge army!" That would be a foolish thing to believe.

## Activity #2

Lead the group to finish working on the activity sheet. Practice the memory verse with them, and help them learn it. Encourage the individuals to put the verse together using the Velcro pictures.

## Christ Connection

The Israelites cried out to God because they knew they could not save themselves. Even Gideon was not enough to save them; God used Gideon to help his people, but God fought the battle for them. The people needed someone who was mighty to save. We are weak like Gideon, but God sent his Son. Jesus came to earth as a man. He was humble and looked weak, but he was strong! Jesus came to save us from sin because we cannot save ourselves. Only God, through Christ, can save us.

## Review Questions

*(Optional: Play the Questions From Kids (QFK) video to continue the discussion about Gideon. Today's episode asks why God gives different talents and abilities to different people.)*

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. Who was afraid to obey God? Gideon
2. Who asked for signs to show that God was with him? Gideon
3. Who told Gideon to send home all but 300 men? God
4. Who deserves glory for the victory in the battle? God

## Group B

1. **Why was Gideon afraid to obey God?** He was the youngest son from the weakest family in Israel.
2. **What signs did Gideon ask God for?** A fleece to be wet and the ground dry, then the fleece to be dry and the ground wet.
3. **What did God do to reduce the size of Gideon's army?** First, God told Gideon to send home those who were afraid. Then, God told Gideon to send home many men based on how they drank water.
4. **Why did God want Gideon to fight with such a small army?** God was teaching Gideon, and all his people, that he was enough to protect them and give them victory. God did not want the people to boast about their victory but to worship him instead.
5. **What are some ways God gives us victory today?** God can give us victory in many ways. When we need healing, when we need peace, when we need wisdom to make choices, God can provide us with those things. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, our greatest victory over sin and death is secure.
6. **What are some things people trust in or boast in today?** Many boast in wealth, success, fame, or material comforts. Remind the individuals that those things, though they can be nice, are not able to save us. We need Jesus to save us and should boast only in him.

## Group C

1. **How did God use the Israelites' weakness to show his power?** God instructed Gideon to reduce the size of the army from 32,000 to 300 men. The Israelites could not claim that the victory came from their own strength; victory came from the Lord.
2. **How do you think Gideon felt about God's calling on his life?** Gideon recognized his own weakness. He did not think he could deliver Israel and asked God repeatedly to confirm his calling. Gideon had to learn that God works through our weakness to show his power.

3. **Are you ever afraid to follow God like Gideon was? How does Gideon's story help you handle your fear?** The victory did not depend on Gideon and his strength. The victory came from God; he is mighty to save. We can rely on God to bless our faithful obedience and to give us power to do what he calls us to do. When God accomplishes his plan through our weakness, he gets glory.

## Group D

## Advanced Learner

1. **What does this story teach us about God?** God showed Gideon that victory comes from him. If God had used a strong warrior with an army of 10,000 men, people might have thought the army had won because it was strong. By using Gideon and a small army, the only way Israel could have won the battle is if God fought for them. And he did!
2. **What was surprising about God's choice of Gideon to deliver his people?** Gideon's family was the weakest family in the tribe. Not only that, Gideon was the youngest son in his family. Gideon wasn't strong enough to rescue Israel on his own, but God promised to be with Gideon.
3. **Why does God give people different talents and abilities?**
4. **In which areas are you weak and need to depend on God?**

## Prayer

**God, you are good and lead us to victory in the spiritual battles we fight each day. Give us courage to face the difficulties and pain of the world without fear. You give us victory through Jesus. Thank you. Amen.**

