



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Gideon	SPEAKER	Elder David Foo
THEME	Life Lessons from Judges	DATE	27 & 28 August 2022

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

As we continue our series on Judges, we see many Eastern nations continue to attack and destroy Israel's land and nation. God raises another judge in Gideon to lead Israel in battle against the Midianites. As we look into Gideon's life as judge over Israel, we can see whether he stays faithful towards the LORD, or ultimately fails. From his life, we can draw two key lessons about God empowering us for His purposes and His responsibility over our victories.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF GIDEON

Gideon as a Doubter (Judges 6:13): In Gideon's mind, God is an angry God as He seemed to have forsaken Israel. However, God was in fact still loving towards Israel, and had sent Gideon to save Israel (Judges 6:14). But Gideon still continued to doubt God, as he viewed his clan the weakest. Despite Gideon's doubts, God still assures Gideon that He is with them (Judges 6:16), and even waits for Gideon to be ready (Judges 6:17), showing His patience and love towards His people. Gideon tore down the idols his father set-up at night because of his fear of the townspeople. Despite his hesitation and uncertainty, God still delivered the victory to Gideon's hand.

Lesson 1a: God loves us, even when we doubt Him or think He is far away.

Lesson 1b: The LORD qualifies all whom He calls for His purposes. He provided Gideon all the men he needed to fight the battles, even when the odds seemed stacked against him. More importantly, God delivered the enemies of Gideon into his hands. This reflects God pre-qualifying us for all that he tasks us with. Great faith is more important than great works in the eyes of the LORD. God wants to accomplish His purposes through us.

Failing to lead Israel back to God in the end (Judges 8:22-24): Gideon did not take up Israel's desire for him to be their king, and even said God should rule over them. However, he failed when he led the Israelites astray by making the ephod which ended up becoming a snare to them.

Lesson 2: As it says in Proverbs 21:31, God is ultimately the one in control of our victories in life, all we need to do is simply prepare ourselves by trusting in God's faithfulness, and to give him the final glory he deserves for the victories in our life.

CONCLUSION

From Gideon's life, we learnt that God is Peace. Just as He was on Gideon's side, He is on our side.

Next, God had accomplished His purpose through Gideon. *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Eph 2:10. Likewise, God wants to accomplish His purpose through us. We are pre-qualified for God's tasks so we need not compare our unique tasks with others. Great faith is more precious than great works.

Lastly, God is the one in control of our victories in life. *"The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord."* Prov 21:31. Whatever the task, our preparation is to learn to trust God more. We do not need to be concerned about results. We should only be concerned that God gets the ultimate glory.

QUESTIONS

1. God qualified Gideon to fight the battle even when the odds seemed stacked against him. Recall a recent time when God called you into unfamiliar or new opportunities. Did you respond with faith or doubt? Why?

2. God had accomplished His purpose through Gideon and He wants to accomplish His purposes through us. As you consider the challenge/s you are facing now, how does that change your perspective of it/them?

3. Gideon realised that God was the One responsible for the victory, and not him. How can you give God glory for every outcome, even if it is not your desired result?