

Judges 6-13 The Story of Gideon – God’s Plan for You

- I. Introduction
 - II. The history of Israel under the Judges
 - a. Othniel and the Syrian oppression (3:7 -16:31)
 - b. Ehud and the Moabite oppression (3:12 – 30)
 - c. Shamgar and the victory over the Philistines (3:31)
 - d. Deborah and the Canaanite oppression (4:1 – 5:31)
 - e. Gideon and the Midianite oppression (6:1 – 8:35)
 - i. Gideon’s call and preparation (6:1 – 40)
 - ii. The victory over Midian (7:1 – 8:21)
 1. Preparation for battle (7:1 – 15)
 2. The battle at En-harod (7:16 – 22)
 3. Pursuit and final reckoning (7:23 – 8:21)
 - iii. Gideon’s judgeship (8:22 – 35)
-

Ice breaker Activity:

Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson

Come up with an Acronym to help you remember the names of Judges.

One evening someone divided great animals to jump joyously in every abode singing

Main Point for the Evening

The plan God has for our lives is a plan borne out through grace.

Does God believe in God?

If you ask God, He says absolutely, I believe in God.

God, Do you believe you are God?

Yes, I am God and I completely believe I am God.

Let me ask **you** this – is God the greatest thing that ever was?

Is God the most beautiful thing that ever was?

Does he believe he is it?

It is through Him knowing who he is that motivates him to create creatures who have minds who can understand and respond to who he is.

The story of Gideon is a story of grace. The story of Judges is a story of grace. Jesus talks in Luke about walking the walk, not just talking the talk. How often do I wonder off the right path? The Old Testament seems to be full of stories of Gods people doing all they can to push God away, to besmirch his paradise, to wonder in the desert.

How did the Israelites respond to God?

Judges 6-13 The Story of Gideon – God’s Plan for You

What happened to Deborah? Where does Gideon come in?

A quick scan through Judges brings the following statements:

2:2 ‘You have not obeyed my voice’

2:11 ‘The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals.’ Then Othniel

3:12 ‘The children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD’ Then Ehud

4:1 ‘When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD’ Then Deborah

6:1 ‘Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD’ Then Gideon

The list goes on and on, then in the New Testament, How do we respond to God?

Peter denies Jesus

Paul in Romans 3:23 ‘all have sinned’, 7:25 ‘my flesh obeys the law of sin’

James 1:13 ‘we are drawn away by our own evil desires’

Don’t get depressed – I’m not saying this to get us down. I’m just making a point – that every step is grace. I am so glad that God is the friend of sinners. I am so glad that God is saying to us, “no, you really need to see me”. We do everything in our power to push God away, I am so glad that God is more powerful than me.

Discussion: How do I follow my calling, walking in selflessness?

Yes, I have my own calling, but there are other things that are needed now. Called to be a prophet, but right now, I need to sweep some floors. ‘Forget yourself long enough to lend a helping hand.’ Phil 2:4 MSG

Gideon didn’t believe. He didn’t believe that God had this in hand

Gideon didn’t want to do anything

Gideon keeps asking for signs

What qualified Gideon for his calling?

Discussion: How much of a part do we ourselves play in our calling?

God is in control overall ‘I know the plans I have for you’. Seek first the kingdom of God, Stir up the gifts 2 Tim 1:6, Walking the narrow road, mindful that Gods grace is author, perfecter and sustainer of your faith and calling.

How does Gideon’s story end?

God’s plan is often not the same as our plan

Why would God’s plan not necessarily be the same as our plan?

Judges 6-13 The Story of Gideon – God’s Plan for You

Gods ways are greater than our ways. We often learn through difficulty (Jesus in the desert), Gideon brought down to 300 men. To glorify God, not you. You are not in control – he is. You just have to obey him. God created us – he knows the human condition. He knows you better than you know yourself. The world tells us ‘better yourself’, ‘self-help’ – you don’t know best – God knows best. To help, but not be noticed. Tola and Jair.

There is a verse that says ‘Who can know the mind of our creator’

Is God in control of everything?

Give all your cares and worries over to God, because he cares about what happens to you.