

## Judges 6: The Call of Gideon

Getting started: Describe a time when you were afraid to act, but found that you were capable of doing more than you thought you could.

**Read 6:1-10****Israel returns into Sin**

1. What happened when Israel had rest and the previous judge passed off the scene? What did the Midianites do to Israel? What did Israel do to escape? In what particular way did these nations terrorize God's people? (vv. 1-4)
2. How did Israel respond to this oppression? How did God answer? (vv. 6-10). Based on the way God answered Israel, how might we expect God to answer us when we disobey?

**Read 6:11-32****God visits Gideon**

3. Where did God appear to Gideon (v. 11; c.f. Genesis 18:1)? What was Gideon doing? Why was he working in a winepress?
4. What encouragement did the Angel repeat to Gideon? (v. 12, 16) Why would that encourage him or us? (Gen. 39:3; 2 Kings 18:7) How much detail about the mission did God give Gideon? (vv. 14-16).
5. Why did Gideon hesitate to except the call? (v. 15) How did God reassure him? (v. 16)

6. What did Gideon wish to do before the Angel left him? (vv. 17-20) What did the Angel do with the offering? (v. 21)
7. What did Gideon call the place where he met the Lord? (vv. 22-24) Why did he choose that title?
8. What assignment did God give Gideon? (vv. 25-26) What was Gideon's response? (v. 31) Explain how faithfulness in little things is essential for usefulness to God (Luke 16:10).
9. What could have happened to Gideon for his act of obedience? (v. 30) What was the significance of the nickname given by his father? (v. 32).

**Read 6:33-40****Gideon tests God**

10. When the Midianites and the peoples of the East returned and camped in the Valley of Jezreel, what did Gideon do? (vv. 33-35). What do Gideon's words tell us about his optimism? (v. 36)
11. What further proof that God was with him did Gideon seek? (v. 37). What further request did Gideon make of God? (v. 39) What does God's response to Gideon on both nights tell us about God? (v. 38, 40).

**Going Deeper**

12. Some criticize Gideon while others congratulate Gideon for asking for these signs. Maybe you "put out a fleece" before making a decision. In your estimation, is asking God for a sign an act of faith or an expression of doubt? Explain your answer. (Consider these Scriptures: Judges 6:14, 17-21; Matthew 16:4; 1 Corinthians 1:22-23)