

The Book of
JUDGES

Testing the Heart of God's Children



Developing Faith

Judges 6:1-40

Lesson 6

Introduction

After 40 years of rest under Deborah, Israel “does evil in the eyes of the Lord.” Once again God delivers Israel into the hands of her enemy for seven years. This time however, when they call out to Him in their distress, God sends them a prophet to **remind** them Who He is and the great works He has performed on their behalf. The reason God gave for their disobedience, was their **fear** of the Amorite gods.

Midianites were descendants of Abraham through his wife Keturah, so they were distant relatives. You might remember that Midianites bought Joseph from his brothers (Gen 37:25-36), welcomed Moses in the wilderness (Ex. 2:15-21) and hired Balaam to curse Israel. Generally speaking Israel counted Midian among its foes. In this case they were menacing Israel, burning, looting and leaving them impoverished.

The **Amalekites** who joined the Midianites against Israel were a nomadic people who lived in the Sinai desert and the Negev, south of Israel. They were descendants of Esau.

Gideon, along with all of Israel was in a spiritually impoverished condition. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and called him to be the next judge to deliver Israel. When God found Gideon hiding from the Midianites, He called him “a mighty man of valor”. Valor is strength of mind or spirit that enables a person to encounter danger with courage and bravery. God’s Spirit enabled Gideon to be obedient in spite of his fear and lack of faith. Gideon’s valor was not a product of his natural make-up, but the outcome of a transforming spiritual experience.

God sees the potential in all of us. He sees us empowered by His Holy Spirit. He knows your weaknesses and uses them as an opportunity to develop your faith.



Looking for Gold - What does it say?

The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Setting the scene: Read Hebrews 11:32-12:29 for added insight. Use an atlas or other sources to place the cities in the appropriate place on your map. Pay attention to who's inheritance they are occupying.

Judges 6:1-10

1 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, 2 and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains. 3 So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. 4 Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. 5 For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it. 6 So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord.

7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the Lord because of the Midianites, 8 that the Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; 9 and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 Also I said to you, "I am the Lord your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." But you have not obeyed My voice.'"

Judges 6:11-24

11 Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

13 Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

14 Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

15 So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

16 And the Lord said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

17 Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. 18 Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You."

And He said, "I will wait until you come back."

19 So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. 20 The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so.

21 Then the Angel of the Lord put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight. 22 Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said,

Judges 6:25-32

25 Now it came to pass the same night that the Lord said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it; 26 and build an altar to the Lord your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down."

27 So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the Lord had said to him. But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night.

28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, there was the altar of Baal, torn down; and the wooden image that was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was being offered on the altar which had been built. 29 So they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And when they had inquired and asked, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing." 30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that was beside it."

31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!" 32 Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar."



Boiling it Down – What does it mean?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Judges 6:1-10 _____

Judges 6:11-24 _____

Judges 6:25-32 _____

Judges 6:33-40 _____



Refined as Gold - How can I apply it?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Judges 6:1-10 _____

Judges 6:11-24 _____

Judges 6:25-32 _____

Judges 6:33-40 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up the main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



Storing up Your Treasure . . .

What did God say? Judges 2:2-3, 6:8-10, 14

What wrong thoughts did Gideon have about God? v 12-13

How did God lovingly encourage Gideon's faith?

How did God reassure Gideon's fear?

What words or phrases are repeated?

Checking for Clarity: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Judges 6:10 _____
Judges 6:11-24 _____
Judges 6:25-32 _____
Judges 6:33-40 _____

Bars of Gold: State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles: Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?



Hide Your Treasure in your Heart

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!" Judges 6:12

Radiating His Truth . . .

Immature faith needs signs for reassurance; mature faith takes God at His Word and obeys. -Warren Wiersbe

