

Study Series: Gideon: Your Weakness. God’s Strength.

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Lesson Title: “Weakness Is Strength” (pp. 137-150)

Session 10

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The main point of this lesson is: We only see God move in strength when our weakness keeps us from moving ourselves.

Focus on this goal: To help adults view their weaknesses as opportunities to see God work rather than reasons to be intimidated or paralyzed

Key Bible Passage: Judges 7:1-7

Before the Session

1. Write one Scripture reference on each of six note cards: Genesis 26:24; Genesis 50:19; Joshua 8:1; Ruth 3:11; Daniel 10:12; Acts 27:24. (Step 4)

2. Enlist a learner to summarize the widow’s experience in 1 Kings 17:8-16. (Step 5)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

To introduce this session, state that one of the earliest songs many of us learned was “Jesus Loves Me.” Lead learners to sing the first verse of the song and draw attention to the phrase, “I am weak but He is strong.”

State: That one little statement in a well-known children’s song carries great spiritual truth. Today’s session will remind us how Gideon’s weakness was an opportunity for God to work in mighty ways. Likewise, our weakness provides opportunity for God to work.

Step 2. The Key to Our Strength

Call on a volunteer to read Judges 7:1-7; 8:10. Write Impossible on a whiteboard. Underneath, write the numbers, 300 and 135,000. Challenge learners to briefly describe the impossible situation Gideon faced.

State that Gideon’s situation was not the only impossible situation described in the Bible. Form the class into two groups, assigning either the loaves and fish or the David and Goliath experience to each group. Instruct the groups to discuss each situation as described in Day One, activity 1 (p. 139). After a few minutes, invite groups to share their biblical truth with the entire class.

Step 3. Less Is More

Tell a personal story about something you forgot at some point, such as to take your house keys, to study for a test, or to celebrate a birthday. State that forgetfulness often creates unnecessary problems.

Explain that spiritual amnesia likewise causes unnecessary problems. Remembering how God has worked in our lives in the past strengthens us to trust Him with all we may face today and tomorrow.

Invite a learner to read Psalm 77:11. Call on learners to share their reflections on Day Two, activity 1 (p. 140), inviting them to write the spiritual lessons they learned on the whiteboard.

Step 4. Double Trouble

State that as God began to decrease the number of Gideon’s troops, He was very clear regarding His reasoning. Ask learners to state God’s reason for doing so in their own words, then ask a volunteer to pray that God will develop more of a sense of humility in the lives of His people.

Distribute note cards with Scriptures related to fear to various learners. State that people fear many things. Call on learners to list things that might cause fear. Write each fear on the whiteboard. Call on the learners with the note cards to read their Scriptures related to fear. Ask learners to summarize what God has to say about fear. Then, draw a big X through the list.

Lead in a discussion on practical ways we can learn to release our fears to God so that the fears do not hold us in bondage. Guide learners to look at Judges 7:3,7 and discuss God’s criteria in winnowing Gideon’s troops from 32,000 to 300.

Invite a learner to role-play Gideon and to express what he might have been thinking when he realized he only had 300 men left to help him battle the Midianites.

Step 5. Letting Go

State that even as Gideon may have been anxious or concerned about going into battle with 300 men, God made a bold promise in Judges 7:7. Invite learners to restate that promise in their own words and to share other promises from God (Day Four, activity 1, p. 144).

Call on the learner enlisted earlier to summarize the widow’s experience in
1 Kings 17:8-16. Guide the group to draw one or more spiritual truths from the widow’s experience.

Lead in a discussion of how God’s promises strengthen believers to move forward when facing daunting circumstances. Encourage learners to share God’s promises this week with someone who is facing a difficult situation.

Lead a discussion regarding whether “more is always better,” which seems to be a popular societal perspective but not necessarily a biblical perspective.

Step 6. The Unseen Supply

State that more is not always better because our Father in heaven has every possible resource in the universe. Guide learners to discuss God’s transformation of Gideon (Day Five, activity 2, p. 147) and state that God is still transforming lives today.

Call on a volunteer to read Galatians 5:16. Discuss practical ways to learn to walk by the Spirit.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Close in prayer.

After the Session

Prayspecifically for learners you know who may be facing challenging circumstances. Let them know of your prayers.

