

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

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Lesson Title: “Growing by Reassurance” (pp. 151-164)

Session 11

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The main point of this lesson is: God in His patience seeks to reassure His people.

Focus on this goal: To help adults identify examples of God’s patience and reassurance in their own lives and grow in the trust of Him

Key Bible Passage: Judges 6:17-24,36-40; 7:9-14

Before the Session

1. Gather various illustrations or photos of street signs for class. (Step 4)

2. Enlist a learner to study Barnabas in the New Testament and prepare to share a summary of how he was an encourager. (Step 6)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

To introduce this session, invite learners to tell the most reassuring words anyone has ever shared with them and why those words were so reassuring.

State that Gideon received reassurance from God regarding the mission God had planned for him, and that God showed a great deal of patience as Gideon needed this reassurance more than once. Stress that today God still patiently reassures His people.

Step 2. The God of Patience

Call on volunteers to read the following four Scriptures: Isaiah 30:18; Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Psalm 86:15. Discuss how God’s compassion is often paired with His patience in His relationship to His children.

Explain that God’s patience is highlighted in His relationship with Gideon. Guide learners to summarize the three times God patiently reassured Gideon in Judges 6:17-24; 6:36-40; and 7:9-15.

Ask learners to imagine how they might respond if someone asked for reassurance repeatedly. Discuss why God’s patience was so vital as He was leading Gideon on the mission to defeat the Midianites.

Step 3. Gideon’s Gifts

Lead in a discussion of how today’s society seems to work against patience, particularly with the technology of microwaves, cell phones, and computers at our fingertips. With that in mind, emphasize that patience is an intentional choice and that God often emphasizes the value of process over instant gratification.

Call on a volunteer to read Judges 6:19-20. Guide learners to describe the four steps in giving our gifts to God (Day Two, pp. 153-154). Call on a volunteer to read Judges 6:21-22. Ask learners to explain the result of Gideon following the four steps with his gift.

Lead in a discussion of how God speaks and reveals Himself to His people today.

Step 4. Fleece, Dew, and Threshing Floor

Ask learners to share what they know about setting out a fleece. After brief discussion, provide additional information as needed (p. 155).

Form the class into two groups with one group creating an argument in support of Gideon setting out the fleece and the other group creating out an argument against his doing so. After time for groups to prepare their perspectives, call on each group to present to the class.

Display the various depictions of street signs brought to class and call on learners to identify their meaning. State that the fleece is basically a sign from God, but it may or may not be necessary because we have God’s Word to provide direction to our lives.

Invite learners to discuss their answers to Day Three, activity 2 (p. 157). Highlight lessons to be learned about asking God to confirm His presence or purpose for His people.

Call on a volunteer to read John 20:29. Discuss its relevance to asking God to provide a sign.

Step 5. The “Dew” and “Do” of Heaven

**Challenge** learners to define miracle. **Ask** learners if they believe most people in our society believe in miracles. After brief discussion, **ask** learners if they believe in miracles and to explain their answer.

**Challenge** learners to recall God’s many miracles in both the Old Testament and New Testament. **Invite** any learner who believes he or she has personally witnessed or been a part of a miracle to share the experience briefly.

**State** that Gideon’s fleece is an example of God performing a miracle in the backdrop of Baalism, that said miracles were impossible. **Discuss** how miracles can help strengthen a Christian’s faith and possibly guide a non-Christian to faith in God.

In the same two groups from Step 4, **direct** learners to discuss their answers in Day Four, activity 2 (p. 159), and to develop and present a role-play between a Christian who believes in miracles and a non-Christian who does not believe in miracles. After time for groups to work, **call for** the role-plays.

Step 6. Faith Squared

State that both Purah and Barnabas were encouragers in the Bible. Invite a volunteer to read Judges 7:10-11 and briefly recount how Purah was an encouragement to Gideon. Call on the person enlisted earlier to briefly summarize how Barnabas became known as the encourager in the New Testament.

Ask learners to share their answers to Day Five, activity 2 (p. 161). State that each Christian can be an encourager because all people need encouragement in their faith journeys.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Close in prayer.

After the Session

If you know someone who is having a crisis of faith, take time to encourage that person this week.

