

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

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Lesson Title: “Out of the Shadow” (pp. 123-136)

Session 9

July 30,2023

The main point of this lesson is: Our perceptions of reality are often only the shadows cast by the Prince of darkness.

Focus on this goal: To help adults look beyond their circumstances to see themselves as God describes them in Scripture

Key Bible Passage: Judges 6:11-40

Before the Session

Enlist a learner to share a testimony of stepping out in faith and being used by God in unforeseen ways. (Step 6)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

To introduce this session, invite learners to recall a time they were introduced—possibly to a girlfriend’s or boyfriend’s parents, as a speaker at an event, or as a new employee. Ask what, if anything, about that introduction surprised them.

State that if God were introducing any of us, we might all be surprised about what He had to say. Explain that in today’s Scripture, God revealed some characteristics about Gideon—characteristics and descriptions that surprised even Gideon himself.

Step 2. Commissioning Gideon

Call on a volunteer to read Judges 6:11-12, the beginning of a divine encounter between Gideon and God. Lead in a discussion of learners’ answers to Day One, activity 1 (p. 123). Read this quote (p. 124) from the author: “To be aware of God’s purpose, you must be aware of His presence.”

Guide learners to discuss practical ways to be aware of God’s presence and how that might lead to an awareness of His purpose. Invite learners to share personal examples of that truth.

Step 3. Threshing . . . And Other Ordinary Things

Draw attention to what Gideon was doing when God appeared to him and guide learners to discover the spiritual analogy from Gideon’s task. State that as we look at some of our mundane tasks, we might also find spiritual lessons or reminders of God’s goodness.

Form the class into two groups and assign either Day Two, activity 1 (p. 125) or 2 (p. 126) to each group. After groups have had opportunity to discuss their activities, call on them to report their findings to the entire class.

Step 4. Overlooking the Obvious

Observe that as Gideon and the Lord began to communicate with one another, Gideon had questions. Call on a volunteer to read Judges 6:13. Guide learners to restate the questions in that verse in a present context.

Point out to learners that God had already answered Gideon’s questions through a prophet in Judges 6:7-10. Explore the answer.

Call on a volunteer to read Judges 6:14. Challenge learners to identify the Lord’s response to Gideon’s questions. Point out that, rather than answer the question directly, the Lord commanded Gideon to do something, and He accompanied that command with promises. Note that the Lord promised His presence both in Gideon’s present circumstances and in all future circumstances.

Ask learners to share their answers to Day Three, activity 2 (p. 128). Briefly discuss how the commands and promises mirror God’s call on our lives in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20.

Step 5. Who Do You Think You Are?

Call on a volunteer to read Judges 6:12. Invite learners to identify the two-word description of Gideon used by the angel of the Lord.

Challenge learners to call out descriptions of how Gideon might have seen himself at that time. Point out that Gideon’s perception of himself and God’s perception of him were totally different. Ask learners whether Gideon was unique, or if God calls each of us to be a mighty warrior.

Guide learners to consider their self-perceptions up against God’s perceptions (Day 4, activity 1, p. 130). Challenge learners to develop and share a one-sentence lesson for contemporary believers based on the interaction of the angel of the Lord with Gideon.

Step 6. Gideon’s Assignment

State that God had called Gideon to go and save (“deliver”) (Judg. 6:14), and that the mission assignment began close to home for Gideon. Call on a volunteer to read Judges 6:25-26.

Guide learners to state Gideon’s first assignment from God in their own words. Discuss the significance of this assignment. Explore how this first assignment called out Gideon’s inner “valiant warrior.”

Brainstorm how God leads and develops His people each step of the way as they step out in faith to obey Him. Ask learners how God might be challenging them to take a difficult first step in obedience to Him (Day Five, activity 2, p. 133). Allow learners opportunity to share as they wish to do so. Explain that although we might not know where that first step will take us, we can be assured, like Gideon, that God will be with us each step of the way, drawing attention to Judges 6:12,16.

Call on the learner enlisted earlier to share how he or she took a first step of obedience to God that required their “inner warrior” and how that first step led to being used by God in unforeseen ways.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Close in prayer, thanking God for His presence and asking Him to give courage and power to those stepping out in faith to be His mighty warriors.

After the Session

Send notes of encouragement by email or text messages to learners during the week.

