

## Bible Studies in Judges - Gideon

1. Read Judges 6:11-24
  - a. Gideon was threshing his wheat in a winepress (verse 11) ...
    - i. Would you normally thresh wheat in a winepress? Why, or why not?
    - ii. Why is Gideon trying to do this (verse 11; see verses 1-6)?
  - b. The angel came and said: "The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor" (verse 12) ...
    - i. What is the first question Gideon asks (verse 13), and what is the answer (see verses 7-10)?
    - ii. Do you think this is always the explanation for why things go wrong in our lives?
    - iii. What is the second question Gideon asks, and what is the answer (verses 15-16)?
    - iv. What do you make of the discrepancy between how Gideon views himself, and how God describes him?
    - v. What lessons are there in this for us, when God asks us to take on big challenges (see Romans 8:31)?
  - c. Gideon asks for a "sign" (verse 17) ...
    - i. What does he want the sign for?
    - ii. What does this tell us about Gideon?
2. Read Judges 6:25-32
  - a. Why do you think this is the first thing God asks Gideon to do?
  - b. What light does it shed on the spiritual state of Israel at the time?
3. Read Judges 6:33-40
  - a. Why do you think Gideon asks (again) for a sign?
  - b. What do you think God thought of that?
4. Read Judges 7:1-8
  - a. What reason does God give for reducing Gideon's numbers (7:2)?
  - b. In what way does this echo God's instructions to Israel as they were preparing to enter the Promised Land in Deuteronomy 8:6-18?
  - c. In what ways are we at risk of adopting this "I did it myself" attitude?
  - d. How does God give Gideon assurance in 7:9-15?
5. Read Judges 7:16-23
  - a. Whose battle plan was this (7:16)?
  - b. Whose victory was it (7:22)?
  - c. What does this tell us about the plans we make, and God's role in our success?
6. Read Judges 8:22-28
  - a. What do you make of Gideon's actions here?
7. Reflection ...
  - a. What's your overall assessment of Gideon?
  - b. In what ways are you like Gideon? And what ways are you not like him?
  - c. What lessons can we learn from Gideon's life about faith and action?