

Gideon

Objectives

To understand God's will and His interactions with His people and to learn about the characteristics of a servant who responds to God's calling

References

- Spirit Filled Life Bible for Students; NKJV
- The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Bible
- www.biblegateway.com

Scriptural Verse

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding"
(Proverbs.3:5-6)

Lesson Outlines

Midianites Oppress Israel

- Because the Israelites were disobedient to the Lord, He delivered them into the hands of the Midianites who oppressed them for seven years.
- The people of Israel cried to God for help.
- The Amalekites were an ancient nomadic tribe that were compared to locusts (Judges 7:12)

Gideon's Characteristics

- Helped to create sustenance for his family at the time of oppression; hard worker (Judges 6:11-12)
- Became a MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR; God saw him not for what he was; but for what He was going to make of him.
- He felt the responsibility to help his people, he responded (although slowly) to the calling, despite his youth and poverty (Judges 6:15)
- He was a man of prayer (Judges 6:13)

Gideon's Relationship with God

- Gideon did not want to be deceived; but wanted proof that it was indeed God who was talking to him (Judges 6:17-24 and 2 Corinthians 11:14).
- Gideon had a personal understanding of who God is and this is how he was able to trust Him (Judges 6:12-24).
- Gideon needed confirmation of his calling by the Lord; he had a relationship with God that provided assurance/confidence for the calling (Judges 6:36-40).

Gideon's Obedience

- Judges 7
- Was an indicator of his deep faith which defied logic. How could he defeat the Midianites with just 300 men.
- Obedience to God requires faith that His decisions are truly in our best interest.

Conclusion

God has called each one of us to serve Him in our lives. He is able to use our weakness for His glory. However, we must have a discerning heart and open ears to hear this calling.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. What are we called to do? What do we feel a responsibility to do?
2. Do we have a relationship with God, so that we have an understanding for His will in our lives?
3. Is God sending messages to our hearts and are we sensitive to what our hearts are aching for?
4. Are we feeling the responsibility like Gideon did?