

Lesson 4: Gideon the 5th Judge

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Judges 6-8 – Gideon the 5th Judge
- 2) Contrast the Godly characteristics of Gideon with the ungodly characteristics
- 3) Complete activity sheets to help remember the events of Gideon and the order of Judges

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for ideas

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Map of Oppressors and Later Judges – one for class to share
- Judges Charts and Answer Key– (from previous class)
- Gideon Color Page – one per younger student
- Characteristics of Gideon Sheet – one per older student
- Characteristics of Gideon Answer Key – one for teacher

Optional:

- Gideon Activity Sheet – one for each older student
- Gideon Activity Sheet – one for each younger student
- Pictures for Judges 6-8 – one for class to share
- Sand – small amount in a spice or shaker jar for younger students to use on color page
- Gluesticks – enough to share
- Red, Orange and/or Yellow small ripped pieces of tissue paper – to glue onto fire for color page
- Star Stickers – to place in sky of color page
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Broccoli and/or Red Pepper Strips | 1-4 pieces for each child |
| - Napkins for snack | one per child |
| - Juice or water and cup | one per child |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Write in the name of each student who is new.

Say to students:

Today we are going to continue to study the book of Judges.

Raise your hand and tell me if you remember what the term “Judges” mean in the Old Testament book. Let students answer. They were military conquerors not courtroom judges and these judges helped Israel defeat other nations that wanted to conquer Israel.

What did we study last week? Let students raise their hands and answer. Answers might include: Deborah the 4th Judge sent Barak to fight against Sisera and the Canaanites. When Sisera escaped he went into the tent of Jael and she killed him while he slept and told Barak what she had done. Deborah judged for 40 years and was the only woman judge. Deborah was also a prophetess.

Does anyone have any questions from last week? Answer if you are able, if not tell the students you will get an answer and let them know next week and then make sure you do 😊

Good job! Now, if you have your Bibles let’s find Judges and turn there now. (For students that don’t have Bibles provide one or have them share with the person sitting next to them.)

2) Gideon the 5th Judge – with Judges Map and Chart

20-25 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

*Have map of Judges ready to show class as you read and have the Judges Charts from last class ready for students to fill in.



Let’s all turn to Judges Chapter 6 and can I get a volunteer to read 6:1-7?

Thank the volunteer for reading and then show them the map of Judges – point to Gideon’s area and show what area he judged from. Show them that the Midianites would have come in from the east.

Discussion Questions:

Who was oppressing the Israelites at that time? Midianites

Why? Because in verse 1 – it says the Israelites began to do evil again.

How bad was this oppression? So bad the Israelites had no crops, food or animals and had to hide in caves.

*Below, verses are shown in case a student has a question about what you are talking about.

Say, **“This time, God used the Midianites to punish the Israelites. The Midianites were desert dwellers descended from Abraham through his second wife, Keturah. If you remember that during Israel’s wanderings in the wilderness, the Midianites conspired with the Moabites to hire Balaam to curse the Israelites (Numbers 22:4-7). When that plot failed, Midianite and Moabite women seduced the Israelites into worshipping Baal, causing God to be angry with Israel (Numbers 25:1-9).**

Now that the Israelites were settled, the Midianites used different tactics. They swept in from the desert on their camels, destroying the crops and ravaging the land before retreating. Once again, the Israelites waited until the situation was desperate before turning to God for help. This recurring theme in the book of Judges teaches us an important lesson. We, like the ancient Israelites, get ourselves into trouble when we leave God out of our lives. And often we make the problem worse by exhausting all other alternatives, turning to God only as a last resort. Let’s not turn *from* God so we don’t ever have to worry about turning *back* later!

Let's read **Judges 6:11-24** – can I get some volunteers to read 4 verses each? Show visuals at appropriate times.

Discussion Questions:

What was Gideon doing when the angel of the Lord appeared to him? Secretly trying to make the wheat into small grains for bread and hiding it from the Midianites.

How was Gideon humble? In verse 15 he said he was the least in the family and the family was least in the tribe.

What was the Lord's reply? Go and save Israel.

What happened to Gideon's offering? The angel touched it with his staff and fire consumed the meat and bread.

What did Gideon do in response? Built an altar

Does God do great things for us today? Name some? Give us homes, families, talents, love, church family, safe place to live, etc.

What should we do like Gideon did? Worship God by going to church every week!

Have students read **Judges 6:33-40**. Thank them and ask:

What test did Gideon want from God? To make dew form on the fleece but not the ground and then to make dew form on the ground and not on the fleece.

What did God do? He did it

What did Gideon say that showed that he should not be testing God but trust in Him? He said to God, "Don't be angry with me but allow me one more test..."

How does this show that Gideon was not a very spiritually strong man? Because he needed two more signs even after the angel made fire come from his staff.

What does this show about God? God is patient and willing to work with us – even if we are weak. God is great!

Let's finish up the story, can I get someone to read **Judges 7:1-7**? And someone else to read **Judges 7:16-22**

Discussion Questions:

How many men ended up fighting the Midianites? 300.

How many men did he start with – see verse 3? 32,000.

22,000 men left and 10,000 remained so add those up to get 32,000!

Did they use weapons? No

What did they use? Torches with fire for light, trumpets and pottery or jars!

Who won the battle? God did for the Israelites.

Hand out one **Judges Chart** to each child along with pencils and erasers and pencil crayons for young students. Use the ones that you saved from last week handing out new ones to any student who was not present last time.

Younger students will get a chart with more pictures on it for those who aren't able to read and write well yet. Older students who can read and write well will get a blank chart that they will fill in mostly on their own.

Tell the students, "Each week we are going to fill in this chart with information about the 13 judges we will study this quarter. We just read about the fifth judge – what was his name? Gideon. If you look on the chart – he is the fifth one to be listed. There is also some other information on the chart we need to fill in each time we study a judge. Can someone turn to **Judges 8:28** and read that so we can know how long was Gideon's length of rule? 40 years.

**So beside the word Length of Rule, what are we going to write there? 40 years.
Can everyone write the number 40 under the orange tab that says length of rule?**

Let younger students listen but color the picture of Gideon while the older students do the following:
What is a fact we can write about Gideon? Let students answer. See answer key for ideas.

Under the green heading it says oppressor – that means the group of people that were fighting the Israelites to take over their territory. In Judges 6 – who were the oppressors? Midianites (see verse 1). Help students write *Midianites*. For younger students the word is already filled in.
Now, finally under “Years of Oppression” the last tab – how long did the Midianites oppress Israel – see Judges 6:1? 7 years.

Can you all write the number 7 in that box please? Help students as needed. Then gather the charts and keep them for next week.

3) Characteristics of Gideon and/or Color Page

15-20 minutes

Say, “Today we learned that Gideon – the fifth judge of Israel – fought against the Midianites. While we studied we saw that he had many characteristics some good some not so good. On the sheet I am going to hand out for the older students I want you to look at the verse that is provided and then write a sentence describing how that is a good/bad characteristic.”

Hand out one sheet and pencils to each older student and tell them to raise their hand if they have any questions or have trouble with something.

See Answer Key for answers.



Hand out one color page for younger students. Hand out pencil crayons and allow the younger students to color.

*Optional: If available use star stickers, sand and glue and red and orange ripped pieces of tissue paper to help the younger students decorate their page – stars in the sky, sand and glue to glue the sand onto the pieces of broken pottery and tissue paper to glue onto the fire-lit torches. They can also decorate the tents as well if time.

Ask students if they have any questions before moving on. Answer the ones you can and tell them you will find out any question you cannot answer right now and get back to them next time.

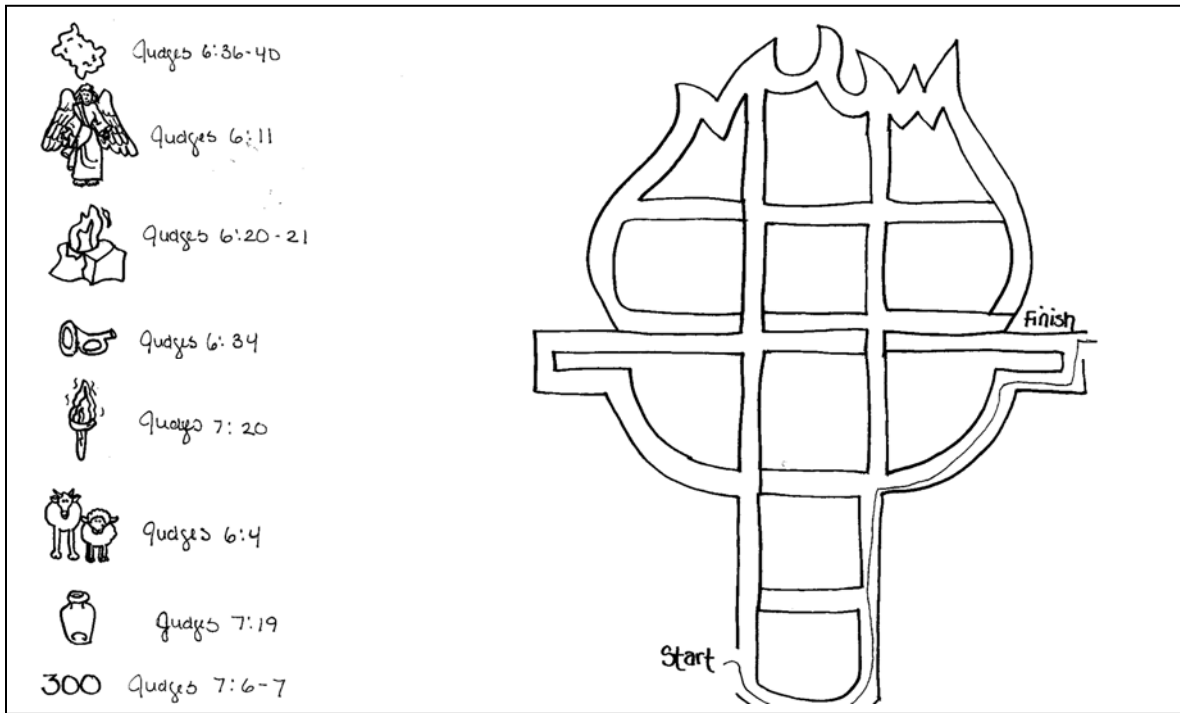
4) Optional: Gideon Activity Sheet – For Younger and Older Students

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child – for students who can read and write well – hand out the older student’s sheet where they match the verse with the picture. For younger students unable to read and write well – hand out the sheet where they match one word with each picture only. Help younger students as needed.

Hand out pencil crayons and read the directions aloud. For younger students – read each word that they are to match and help them find the picture that goes with it – example: Read “Fleece” and help them find the picture and draw a line to it that shows fleece.

Answer key for older students:



5) Optional – Snack: Broccoli/Red Peppers (to represent torches and fire)

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that: **Today we studied that Gideon was the 5th judge. And while he ruled, he fought the Midianites with only 300 men because God was with him and helped the Israelites win. God is with us too – every day! He helps us deal with our issues and problems too. To help us remember that God fought for Gideon and God fights for us, we are going to eat Broccoli pieces and/or Red Pepper strips to help us remember the torches and fire that Gideon and his men used.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands.

Discuss any questions while snacking. See if students can remember any of the names of the judges while snacking or see how many books of history they can name.

6) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. An example: Gideon’s Song –if wanted you can print a copy for students and hand out. See Songs section for this quarter.

7) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God, help us as we study Your perfect Word in the Old Testament to understand it, use it and see the examples of faithful people that followed You. Help us to remember that Your commands are important and need to be followed to live a life that is pleasing to You. Help us all too always love You with our whole heart, mind, strength and soul!

Thank you for the book of Judges that will show us how we still need to be faithful, even if everyone else around us is not. Help us to see that we can be faithful just like some of the judges were. Help us to learn from their mistakes and try to be like them when they did right.

We pray for those who could not be here today. We pray you will bring them back safely next week. In Jesus precious name, Amen.