

## Chapter 4 Study: “Hey, Mighty Warrior!” Judges 6, Gideon

### Read Judges 6:1-10.

1. According to verse 1, why did the Midianites rule over the Israelites for seven years?
2. What circumstance do you find in verse 6 that finally caused the Israelites to cry out to the Lord?
3. How did the Lord respond when the Israelites cried out to Him about the Midianites?
4. What does this response reveal to you about God’s character?

### Read Judges 6:11-16.

5. Who is Joash the Abiezrite?
6. By what description did the Lord address Gideon?
7. According to verse 13, how did Gideon respond to the Lord?
8. What does this verse tell you about Gideon’s view of himself?
9. Have you ever felt abandoned by God? Explain.
10. What was the Lord’s specific command to Gideon in verse 14?
11. How did Gideon respond to God’s command?
12. What does verse 15 reveal to you about Gideon’s view of himself?
13. Have you ever felt like the Lord has asked you to do something that you felt incapable of doing? Explain.
14. What did God promise Gideon that God would do?
15. What did God promise Gideon that Gideon would do?
16. Has the Lord ever asked you to do something that would guarantee victory? Explain.

**Read Judges 6:17-24.**

In verse 17, Gideon asks God for a sign and begs Him to stay there until Gideon returns with an offering. The Lord agrees to do so, and when Gideon returns and prepares the offering, the Lord touches the offering with his staff and it is instantly consumed with fire. Gideon was blown away by that and basically responded with, “Whoa! I’ve just seen God face-to-face!!” And God confirmed that Gideon wouldn’t die because of it in the very next verse (which was Gideon’s unspoken fear): “Don’t be afraid! You’re not gonna die!”

17. As stated in verses 23-24, what did the Lord command Gideon?

18. What was Gideon’s response?

19. In this pair of verses, we discover a name for God that is not used anywhere else in the Bible: Jehovah Shalom, which means “The Lord is Peace.” Does this name of God ring true for you?

20. When you think of approaching the presence of God, does that thought bring a feeling of peace to you? Why or why not?

21. Do you sense His peace in your present circumstances? Why or why not?

22. What does His peace look or feel like to you?

23. How can you have God’s peace when it seems like the world around you has turned against you?

**Read Judges 6:25-31.**

Then in verse 25, the Lord tells Gideon to do something even bolder—to not only tear down his father’s altar to Baal, but to also build a new altar to the Lord right on top of it. God also commanded Gideon to cut down his father’s Asherah pole (another object his father used in idol worship) and use it as kindling wood to sacrifice a bull to God!

24. According to verse 27, did Gideon obey God’s command to him?

25. Why did Gideon wait until nighttime to obey?

26. Have you ever been in a similar situation where God was asking you to do something that you knew would anger your family? What did you do, and how did you handle it?

27. According to verses 30-31, what did Gideon's neighbors think?

28. What did they want to do in response?

29. What was Joash's response?

The end of Judges chapter 6 tells us that Israel's enemies joined forces to fight against them, and that Gideon began summoning forces to battle in response. Gideon then put out fleece two different times to confirm that what he was hearing was from God—the first time asking that God make the fleece soaking wet and the ground dry the next morning, which it was. The second time, Gideon asked that the fleece be completely dry and the ground wet the next morning, and it was.

30. Have you ever felt like God was asking you to do something, but you weren't sure about it? Explain.

31. Do you feel like God is asking you to do something now that you're not totally confident about? Explain.

32. When you're in a situation like that, what are some things that you can do to check whether the idea is coming from the Lord?