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Bible Doctrine Presented in Q&A Format

GIDEON AND THE MIDIANITES

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

- 1) This material is designed for one session or six sessions.
- 2) The SET OF COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS is designed for one session.
- 3) With the other sets of questions, you can stretch the lesson into six sessions.
- 4) It is recommended that the teacher is well prepared before class.
- 5) It is recommended that the students come to class with their answers written out.
- 6) Answers can be written on the back of the questions page.
- 7) The teacher can choose a select number of questions or all of them.

SET OF COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS (Judges 7-9)

1. Did Israel know why they were being oppressed before they were told? (Judges 6:10)	21. Was Gideon doubting whether God would come through with what he said?
2. Should Israel have known why they were being oppressed before being told?	22. What was the reason for decreasing the number in Gideon's army? (7:2; Deut 3:22)
3. Did the Israelites acknowledge fault? Was their cry a cry of repentance? (6:6)	23. Where did Gideon's prowess to gather men come from? (6:34)
4. Once Israel got oppressed, why did they not cry out to false gods for deliverance?	24. Who was really fighting for Israel? (Exo 14:14; Deut 1:30)
5. What is the primary challenge in a theocracy? (Judges 8:33; Eze 37:24; Matt 9:36)	25. When Israel attacked Ai the second time, why were they allowed to take more soldiers?
6. Why was the issue of Israel going into captivity and being delivered a vicious cycle?	26. What is the difference between the preparation of Gideon's battle and other battles?
7. Was the purpose of the period of the judges to demonstrate the need of a king?	27. Did the dream of the cake of barley bread come from God? (7:11, 15)
8. How did Gideon know with whom he was speaking? (6:12-13, 21-22)	28. What was the main responsibility of Gideon during the entire process?
9. What was the significance of threshing wheat in a winepress? (6:11) ^{1c}	29. What is the difference between managing 120,000 men and managing 300 men?
10. What was a key factor that this call landed on Gideon? (6:15-16; I Co 1:27-29)	30. If God wanted to deliver Israel as one man, why gather 32,000 men in the first place?
11. What influenced Gideon to name the alter THE LORD IS PEACE? (6:23-24; 8:28)	31. How much logic was involved regarding the weapon of choice and their instructions?
12. Was this a theophany or a christophany? (Exo 33:20; Judges 6:21-23; I Tim 6:16)	32. Was the call for reinforcements approved by God?
13. Does God ever have a man in one ministry in order to prepare them for the next one?	33. Can you discuss Gideon's answer to the Ephraimites? (6:35; 8:1-3; Prov 16:1)
14. Was Joash's heart with Baal? (6:31)	34. Who turned the enemy against each other? (7:22)
15. After the objects of the false gods were torn down, whose side did Joash take? (6:31)	35. What do you think they were doing that God said they were whoring after the ephod?
16. Was Gideon's call timely? (6:33) Does God know when to move?	36. How should you handle a victory? How long should you rejoice after a victory?
17. What did a bowl full of water signify? (6:38)	37. Was Gideon, as a public figure, tied to the law of many wives for kings? (Deut 17:17)
18. What were the three signs from God that Gideon asked for? (Judges 6:17, 21, 36-40)	38. How should Israel's new leader/situation have been managed before Gideon's death?
19. Is asking for a sign an ongoing theme in the Bible?	39. Since Israel had experienced victory, how should they have managed Gideon's story?
20. Is there a difference between asking for a sign and confirming God's call? (2 Co 11:14)	40. Did Gideon finish his life well? How can you ensure that you will finish well?

^{1a} By working in a winepress, which was underground, Gideon could hide from the Midianites. "Threshing your wheat in a winepress." (December 16, 2016) Accessed June 19th, from, <https://cedarministry.org/threshing-your-wheat-in-a-winepress/>

1. THE ISRAELITES COMMIT EVIL (Judges 6:1-10)

1. Do we know what kind of evil that the children of Israel were engaging in? (Judges 6:1)	21. Did the Midianites belong to the list of nations in Deuteronomy 7:1?
2. What kind of actions had Israel engaged in? (Judges 6:1, 10, 25-26)	22. Where did Midian get its strength?
3. Did Israel know why they were being oppressed before they were told? (6:10)	23. Why was the issue of Israel going into captivity and being delivered a vicious cycle?
4. Should Israel have known why they were being oppressed before being told?	24. Did the children of Israel fear the Amorites or the gods of the Amorites?
5. Did the Israelites acknowledge fault? Was their cry a cry of repentance? (6:6)	25. Are there differences between getting judged corporately and individually?
6. What were the Midianites doing to the Israelites? (6:3-4)	26. Why was the temptation to worship false gods so strong in Gideon's day?
7. How did the children of Israel respond to the actions of the Midianites? (6:2)	27. Will the presence of a king have an effect on obedience? (Josh 24:31; Eze 37:24)
8. Where were the Midianites located? How close were they to Israel?	28. Will the keeping of the commandments be related to the ministry of the 144,000? ^{2b}
9. How did the Midianites get to Israel when they weren't adjacent to them? (6:3)	29. How was Israel's failure and God's testing of Israel related? (Judges 2:20-22)
10. Only after what happened did the children of Israel cry out to the LORD? (6:6)	30. Would being a natural follower under a theocracy be a detriment or an advantage?
11. Once Israel got oppressed, why did they not cry out to false gods for deliverance? ^{2a}	31. How would simply going with the crowd work during a theocracy?
12. Name two reasons for this round of oppression? (Numbers 33:55-56; Judges 2:13-15)	32. Was the purpose of the period of the judges to demonstrate the need of a king?
13. Once God spoke, did he sympathize with the Israelites? (Judges 6:8-9)	33. Was the existence of Levites in Israel in Gideon's day enough motive for them to obey?
14. What was God saying when he said that he brought them out of Egypt? (6:8-9)	34. When sinning, if you are following others, is the punishment delineated?
15. How was the content explained that the prophet brought? (6:9-10)	35. What role does faith play in a theocracy?
16. What kind of government did Israel have in Gideon's day? (8:22-23)	36. What are some ways to bolster protection against temptation?
17. What is the primary challenge in a theocracy? (Judges 8:33; Eze 37:24; Matt 9:36)	37. Is your country being judged by God at present?
18. Who was the prophet sent to Israel? (Judges 6:8)	38. Are you at peace with God? Is your country at peace with God?
19. Did the Israelites love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength? (Deut 6:5)	39. Are you keeping the commandments?
20. Were the children of Israel keeping the commandments? Why or why not?	40. How can you know that you love the Lord?

^{2a}See Exodus 8:19, Judges 3:7-9, 15; 6:6; 10:12, and Revelation 16:11 to see how people, saved and unsaved, are aware of the one, true God.

^{2b}See Revelation 12:17 and Revelation 14:12.

2. THE CALL OF GIDEON (Judges 6:11-27)

1. Who delivered the message of Gideon's call? (Judges 6:11, 14, 22)	21. What influenced Gideon to name the alter THE LORD IS PEACE? (Judges 6:23-24)
2. Why were the Midianites oppressing Israel? ^{3a}	22. What was the significance of the name of the alter Gideon built? (6:24; 8:28)
3. Was Gideon's question on the reason for oppression warranted? Was it Pharisaical?	23. What was Gideon's initial task? (6:25-26) Was Gideon afraid to do this task? (6:27)
4. Was Gideon really unable to link Israel's oppression to their rebellion? (6:13)	24. Did God tell Gideon what time of day to finish his task?
5. How did Gideon know with whom he was speaking? (6:12-13, 21-22)	25. Was Gideon keeping the commandments when he received his call?
6. How could the LORD say that he was with Gideon? (6:12)	26. How do you think Gideon was doing with the greatest commandment? (Deut 6:4-5)
7. What does it mean that the LORD was with Gideon? (6:12) ^{3b}	27. Would God want you to thresh wheat out in the open or while you are hiding?
8. Why did Gideon fear his family? (6:15, 27)	28. What is the difference between a theophany and a christophany? ^{3d}
9. Does God lead and provide when he calls someone to do something?	29. Was this a theophany or a christophany? (Exo 33:20; Judges 6:21-23; I Tim 6:16)
10. What did the call of Gideon concern? (6:14) What were Gideon's reservations? (6:15)	30. What is your call in life? How do you know? How can you know?
11. What was the significance of threshing wheat in a winepress? (6:11) ^{3c}	31. Will God allow you to feel fulfilled when you do not follow his call for you?
12. What was asking for a sign displaying? (Judges 6:17-18; Matt 12:38-39)	32. Can you get comfortable in a vocation that is not your call?
13. What was the sign that the angel performed? (Judges 6:18, 20-21)	33. Does God ever have a men in one ministry in order to prepare them for the next one?
14. What was a key factor that this call landed on Gideon? (6:15-16; I Co 1:27-29)	34. Is feeling uncomfortable in one ministry/vocation an excuse to look for another one?
15. What was another major factor in Gideon's call? (I Tim 1:12)	35. Is it God's will for you to use a winepress to thresh wheat?
16. Was Gideon asking how he could save Israel a legitimate question? (6:15-16)	36. Who gets the glory in weakness? (2 Co 12:9-10)
17. Since Manasseh was split into two sections, was this a sign of weakness?	37. Does God call ordinary people to do great things? How about to do ordinary things?
18. Was the tribe of Manasseh the weakest tribe in Israel?	38. Where will you be the happiest and most fulfilled?
19. Since God is attracted by weakness, why does he create strength?	39. Was Gideon keeping the commandments? Are you keeping the commandments?
20. What is it about weakness that attracts an omnipotent God?	40. Do you need a call from God to keep the commandments?

^{3a} See Numbers 33:55-56; Judges 2:14-15, 20-22; 6:1, 10, 25-26. ^{3b} See Genesis 39:2, Joshua 6:27, Judges 2:18, I Sam 3:19; 18:14, and Acts 11:21.

^{3c} By working in a winepress, which was underground, Gideon could hide from the Midianites. "Threshing your wheat in a winepress." (December 16, 2016) Accessed June 19th, from, <https://cedarministry.org/threshing-your-wheat-in-a-winepress/>

^{3d} A theophany is an appearance of God the Father, while a christophany is an appearance of Jesus.

3. PRELIMINARY MATTERS (Judges 6:28-40)

1. What were three possible purposes of Gideon's initial task? (Judges 6:28-30)	21. What were the three signs from God that Gideon asked for? (Judges 6:17, 21, 36-40)
2. How did God use the altar of Baal for his own will?	22. Is confirming a call from God a sign of weakness and doubt, or is it necessary?
3. Was Joash's heart with Baal? (Judges 6:31)	23. Is asking for a sign an ongoing theme in the Bible?
4. What did Gideon's initial task do regarding preparation matters for Israel's deliverance?	24. Is there a difference between asking for a sign and confirming God's call? (2 Co 11:14)
5. In terms of preparing for the upcoming event, what was the next step? (6:34)	25. Had Gideon's call already been confirmed after surviving his first task?
6. What promise had God given Gideon regarding his initial task? (6:23)	26. Did God meeting Gideon's demands three times speak well for God or for Gideon?
7. After the objects of the false gods were torn down, whose side did Joash take? (6:31)	27. Was Gideon doubting whether God would come through with what he said?
8. Was Gideon's call timely? (6:33) Does God know when to move?	28. What areas in your culture would be like tearing down an altar of Baal or an Asherah?
9. Where did Gideon's prowess to gather men come from? (6:34)	29. Does God ever have people in a ministry or job that they don't care for?
10. What differed between the actions of Israel's enemy this round and before? (6:2-5, 33)	30. Should your preferences be the only measuring stick to determine God's will?
11. How could Gideon mobilize an army this quick? (6:34-35; Acts 5:38-39; I Co 12:11)	31. How should your spiritual gifts be taken into account when selecting a ministry?
12. Did Gideon have doubts regarding his call to deliver Israel? (6:36-37)	32. What is doubting God, and what is it not? Have you ever doubted God?
13. Did God meet Gideon's demands? Why did God meet Gideon's demands?	33. How can doubting God be explained? Can doubt ever play a worthy role?
14. Was asking for a sign indicate weakness? What did asking for yet another sign signify?	34. Can you do anything that God calls you to do?
15. What did a bowl full of water signify? (6:38) Is casting lots for the 21st century?	35. Did Peter walk on water because of a spiritual gift or because of faith?
16. Did Gideon doubt God? Did Gideon ask the question, how do I know it's God?	36. Is the faith that Peter employed still available today? What about in Gideon's day?
17. Did Gideon test God in the context of Deuteronomy 6:16? ^{4a}	37. Why did God allow the fleece test to be employed twice?
18. Did God meet Gideon at his level? How so and why? Does God always do this?	38. Why did the fleece story happen before the final count of only 300 men surfaced?
19. Was Gideon being the least in his family the only reason for doubting?	39. Should you be afraid of Allah?
20. Why did Gideon have doubts, even after being clothed by the Holy Spirit? (6:34; 7:10)	40. Are you afraid to give the gospel to a Muslim?

^{4a} Massah is mentioned in Deuteronomy 6:16. The account that took place at Massah is found in Exodus 17:1-7.

4. GIDEON PREPARES THE ARMY (Judges 7:1-14)

1. What is the meaning of Jerubbaal? (Judges 6:32) Is this a good thing?	21. How many soldiers went to attack Ai the first time? (Josh 7:4) The second time? (8:3)
2. Whose idea was it to decrease the number in Gideon's army? (7:2-3)	22. When Israel attacked Ai the second time, why were they allowed to take more soldiers?
3. What was the reason for decreasing the number in Gideon's army? (7:2; Deut 3:22)	23. Why could Israel add men to attack Ai, but only start with 300 to attack the Midianites?
4. Had a large Israelite army delivered Israel, would Israel have given themselves credit?	24. Could Israel use the same methodology as used in Gideon's story for all their battles?
5. How does a normal plan compare with God's methodology in this scenario? (7:11)	25. What is the difference between the preparation of Gideon's battle and other battles?
6. Did Israel always mobilize an army like Gideon's manner?	26. What are the similarities between Gideon's story and Samson's story? (Judges 6:16)
7. How many men were in Gideon's initial army? (7:3) And the final figure? (7:3; 7:8)	27. What are some differences between Gideon's story and the slaying of Goliath?
8. Where did these men come from? (6:35)	28. Did the dream of the cake of barley bread come from God? (7:11, 15)
9. Were there any times when God managed the children of Israel in a similar manner? ^{5a}	29. Was Gideon still afraid right before the main event? (7:11, 15) Why or why not?
10. Why do you think God allowed Gideon to spend all that time to gather the army?	30. What was the main responsibility of Gideon during the entire process?
11. Did Gideon express fear again? What was he allowed to do? (7:10-11)	31. What were Gideon's temptations during all this?
12. Why was Gideon strengthened to lead the army later in the story? (7:11, 13-14, 15)	32. Are you guilty of having been afraid of a God-assigned task?
13. How was the number of the enemy described? (7:12)	33. What are some factors in diminishing the fear factor?
14. Which people groups were in the enemy's army? (7:12)	34. Would you aim to disobey God, should you fear what is going to happen to you?
15. Is Gideon's story a normal story, even for Israel?	35. What are some healthy results that the role of fear can play?
16. What are some similarities between the account of Jericho and Gideon?	36. When is it appropriate to fear? What are some things that should be feared?
17. When was another time the number 300 came up? (15:4) Was there any correlation?	37. Can you name some healthy fears?
18. What was the one, main factor that allowed Gideon to win the battle with 300 men?	38. How could this passage apply to your personal life?
19. Did God only allow 300 men because of an argument of self-indulgence? ^{5b}	39. Were there any surprises in this account?
20. Who was really fighting for Israel? (Exo 14:14; Deut 1:30)	40. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?

^{5a} (See Exodus 13:17; 23:29 and Joshua 6:3-5.)

^{5b} "Gideon needed an elite force of 300 alert soldiers who would not endanger themselves by taking long water breaks. So insofar as they are dog-like, the "lappers" were not chosen because they were more vicious or vulgar than the "kneelers" but because they were less self-indulgent." "Gideon's Doglike Lappers." (April 11, 2018). Accessed June 19, 2024, from <https://blog.israelbiblicalstudies.com/holy-land-studies/gideons-doglike-lappers/>

5. ISRAEL DEFEATS THE MIDIANITES (Judges 7:15-8:21)

1. What is the difference between managing 120,000 men and managing 300 men?	21. Was calling for reinforcements a form of disobedience?
2. What was the difference between managing 300 men and the reinforcements?	22. What right did they have to call in reinforcements? Were reinforcements necessary?
3. How much training did the Midianites have vs the training of the Israelite army?	23. What was the exact cause that 120,000 men fell?
4. If God wanted to deliver Israel as one man, why gather 32,000 men in the first place?	24. Why were the Ephraimites angry? (Judges 8:1)
5. What did Gideon give to each man? (Judges 7:16) What were the instructions? (7:18)	25. Can you discuss Gideon's answer to the Ephraimites? (6:35; 8:1-3)
6. How much logic was involved regarding the weapon of choice and their instructions?	26. Who gave Gideon his answer? (Proverbs 16:1)
7. What did the Israelite warriors cry out? (7:20)	27. Who called and selected men only from Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali? (Judges 6:35)
8. Who turned the enemy against each other? (7:22)	28. Was Gideon at fault for not calling for men from Ephraim at the beginning?
9. Why does God not handle all of his enemies like he did in Gideon's story?	29. Why do you think that God did not interfere with the reinforcements?
10. Why does God not handle his enemies immediately?	30. What is the significance of more men of Israel being added to the battle?
11. What was the main reason Israel won the battle against Midian?	31. What is the difference between the battle at the beginning and at the end?
12. What was the requirement for Gideon to win this battle?	32. Who captured the princes of Midian? (7:24-25)
13. What is the main difference between the first and the second part of the battle?	33. How many men of the enemy had fallen? (8:10)
14. What set off the main victory? (7:22)	34. What are the names of the kings of Midian? (8:5)
15. Can you name a future war with similarities of this battle? (Ezekiel 39:3)	35. Who killed the kings of Midian? (8:21)
16. After the enemy scattered, did the Israelite army add any men? (Judges 7:23-24)	36. How much of the application of this passage is dependent on faith?
17. From where did they come? (7:23-24)	37. How can you apply the account of this military battle to daily life today?
18. At whose beckoning did these men come to help? (7:23)	38. Is there anything in this text that seems to contradict other doctrines in the Bible?
19. Was the call for reinforcements approved by God?	39. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?
20. Was it Gideon who called for more help? (7:24)	40. What does this passage say about 21st century values?

6. THE AFTERMATH (Judges 8:22-8:35)

1. What did Gideon do to make himself into a war hero? Who makes war heroes?	21. How many is "many wives?"
2. Can you compare Gideon with David? What was different between the training of them?	22. Was Gideon, as a public figure, tied to the law of many wives for kings? (Deut 17:17)
3. What do you think was Gideon's motive in refusing to be a judge over Israel?	23. Did Gideon by not seeking other gods render his actions okay?
4. What is so important about Gideon's story? (Judges 8:23)	24. How many children do you think Gideon had in total? (Judges 8:30-31)
5. What did Gideon ask for? (8:24) How did the people respond? (8:25)	25. What did the people do right after Gideon died? (8:33)
6. What did Gideon do with the gifts? (8:27) What did Gideon do with the ephod? (8:27)	26. What did the actions of Israel after Gideon's death reveal?
7. Was putting the ephod in his city a mistake on the side of Gideon?	27. How should Israel's new leader/situation have been managed before Gideon's death?
8. What should Gideon have done after they started whoring after the ephod?	28. Did Gideon becoming a war hero make him into a spiritual leader in Israel?
9. What do you think they were doing that God said they were whoring after the ephod?	29. What temptations are you having to manage?
10. Had we been there, what do you think we would have seen?	30. What happened to Gideon's sons? (9:5, 21, 53-54)
11. Is it possible that Israelites would not have known they were whoring after the ephod?	31. What idols do you have in your heart? How can the idols in your heart be revealed?
12. Since they were whoring after the ephod, why did God not send the Midianites again?	32. When should you move on and work on the next project or goal after a victory?
13. From what the text says, did Gideon do anything about their actions?	33. Why did the people not remember the LORD their God after Gideon's death?
14. What are some temptations a war hero faces?	34. Since Israel had experienced victory, how should they have managed Gideon's story?
15. Are people's temptations all the same? What temptations are the same for all?	35. Does history repeat itself? Was history repeating itself? Why does history repeat itself?
16. Did the law of Moses approve of Gideon's many wives?	36. What should this generation have done to keep history from repeating itself?
17. How is victory a good thing?	37. How can Gideon's victory be compared with the destruction of Jericho?
18. Does God view overcoming as a good thing? (Revelation 2:26) Please explain.	38. Can Gideon's victory be compared with the loss at Ai?
19. How should you handle a victory? How long should you rejoice after a victory?	39. Did Gideon finish his life well? How can you ensure that you will finish well?
20. Should your victories be recalled thereafter? Why or why not?	40. Why do do you think God chose Gideon knowing he would not finish well?

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