

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

Judges 6:1-16

Talk About

- Have you ever seen (up close) or actually been involved in harvesting crops? How did you feel about the experience?
- As a child, did you ever play 'hide-and-seek'? What was your favourite hiding place, and why?
- What has been the most challenging activity that God has asked you to do?

Read About

- Why and for how long had the Israelites been suffering under the Midianites (v.1)?
- Why did the Midianites invade Israel so often (v6)?
- When God replied to the Israelites through the prophet, how many times did God say "I" (v.8-10)?
- What was Gideon doing when the angel appeared (v.11)?
- How does Gideon reply to the angel's opening words (v.13)?
- What did God instruct Gideon to do (v.14)?
- What was Gideon's excuse (v.15)? Was this true? See also Genesis 41:50-51, and Genesis 49 [note parentage].

Think About

- Do you think someone's upbringing influences how useful someone can be for God?
- What part of Gideon's 'conversation' with God do you find the most difficult to imitate?
- How do you react when God asks you to do something specific for Him, e.g. to encourage someone?
- In what areas of your life are you "hiding out" from the world?
- You could end by reading / memorising Judges 6:16.

Judges 6:1-16

¹ The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. ² Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. ³ Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. ⁴ They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. ⁵ They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. ⁶ Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.

⁷ When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, ⁸ he sent them a prophet, who said, 'This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ⁹ I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ I said to you, "I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live." But you have not listened to me.'

¹¹ The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.'

¹³ 'Pardon me, my lord,' Gideon replied, 'but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, "Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?" But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.'

¹⁴ The Lord turned to him and said, 'Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?'

¹⁵ 'Pardon me, my lord,' Gideon replied, 'but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.'

¹⁶ The Lord answered, 'I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.'