

RIGHT IN OUR OWN EYES



THE BOOK OF JUDGES FOR TODAY

Welcome to the winter 2026 season of GLCs. We are starting the book of Judges. May the Lord bless each of you as we study this great book together.

GLC Study Guide
February 1, 2026
Judges 6:33-7:8

What you will find through this study, though we live over 3000 years after the events of this book, and half a world away, we are actually no different than the people we read about in this book. There's a phrase that gets repeated near the end of this book that says "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." So I've titled this series "Right in our own eyes" because this still explains the condition of the human heart- we do what we do, we sin how we sin, we live how we live, because it's right in our own eyes.

Throughout the book of Judges, you will see a downward spiral in the obedience of Israel:

- First the people abandon the Lord
- God punishes them by raising up a foreign power to oppress them
- the people cry out to God for deliverance
- God raises up a deliverer, or judge, for them.
- They worship God.

Man's Meager Methods vs. God's Glorious Grace - Judges 6:33-7:8

Read Judges 6:33-35 (also 6:5, 7:12)

The reality of what Gideon and the Israelites were up against was beyond overwhelming.

- What reasons and assurances did Gideon have to “Go... and save Israel out of Midian’s hand”? (include points from his story in 6:11-32)

Read verses 36-40.

- Considering all these assurances to move him forward in obedience and faith, what might have motivated him to “put out fleeces” before the Lord? Do you think it was mistrust? Are there similarities with Jonah’s response when the Lord told him to go to Ninevah?
- In the light of the context of Gideon’s story, he had very clear reasons to trust and obey God, with no valid need for further assurance. How do you explain God’s accommodation and response to his fleece test, not once, but twice?
 - What is revealed about the character of God?
 - How have you experienced this in your life?

Is it acceptable to ask God for a sign or to ask questions about His instructions?
Discuss. (Consider Moses – Exodus 4:1-17, Zechariah – Luke 1:11-20, Mary – Luke 1:30-38)

- What do we learn from the examples of these people's questions and interactions with God?
- Share about a time when you struggled with some instructions from God and questioned Him.

Read Judges 7:1-8

God tells Gideon that he has too many men (32,000 against an innumerable army) for God to deliver Midian into their hands.

- What reason does God give for this?
- Humanly speaking, what would be the chances of victory for 32,000 men against such a formidable army?

- Pastor Paul noted that God reduced the original army to less than 1% of the original number.
 - What does this show us about the character of God?
 - What does this show us about the character of man?
 - Compare this story with 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and note the similarities.
 - Can you think of ways that you or others have attempted to take some of God's glory as if it were accomplished or aided by our own strength?

There are numerous miraculous occurrences and signs in this story. John 20:30-31 is a New Testament statement about the purpose of Jesus' miracles and their inclusion in John's writings.

- How is this purpose evident in the Old Testament miracles we are studying?

How did Gideon end up in the list of the “heroes of the faith” (Heb. 11:32) who through faith, were saved and brought God’s blessings to His people? What did Gideon bring to the table? What were the building blocks of his faith? Can you relate?

If we are saved it is by faith in Jesus. If we have faith in Jesus, it has been gifted to us by God’s grace. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Try to personalize this text and pray it back to God, phrase by phrase with a heart of gratitude.