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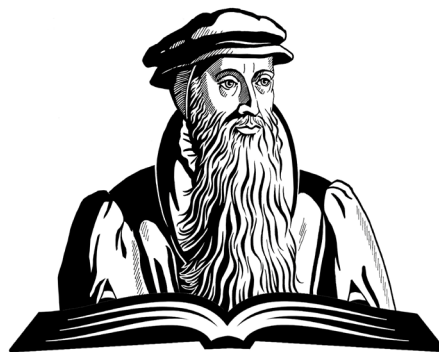
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 49:

Gideon—God with Him

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
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| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
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| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
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| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
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| 24. An Eye upon God | 49 Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
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54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
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74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
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79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
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83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
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86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
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88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
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99. Esther—The Jews Saved
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102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
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110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 49

Gideon—God with Him

The Book of Judges, chapters 6 through 12

Memory Verse

“And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house. And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.”

Judges 6:15–16

The Human Heart

The opening words of Judges 6, “And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD” (Judg. 6:1), is a sad commentary on the heart of man. In the midst of God’s deliverance, there dwelt in the heart of the Israelites a backsliding spirit. Even a heart, where the Spirit has done his regenerating work, must be watched over. How often does the good desire of the heart end in frustration and failure? How often do the thoughts and words of a Christian echo Paul’s sentiment: “The good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do” (Rom. 7:19). Knowing his own heart, how often does the Christian pray, “[Lord], thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?” (Ps. 56:13)? Oh, what is a backslider to do? “Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings” (Jer. 3:22).

God—Rich in Mercy

God, who is rich in covenant mercies, who is long-suffering and full of compassion, will yet, in the face of repeated rebellion, make his mercy known. Already four times under Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar and Deborah, God has delivered his rebellious people. In Judges chapters 6 through 12, God will send seven additional judges—Gideon, Tola, Jair and Jephthah.

Is there not in these repeated deliverances a drawing of the mind to that interaction between Jesus and Peter, when Peter asked the question, “Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?” and Jesus replied, “I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven” (Matt. 18:21–22). Is not the direction to forgive our neighbor his trespasses but a faint reflection of the Father’s great mercy?—“The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy” (Ps. 145:8).

A Man's Station is No Hindrance to God's Delivering Work

The eyes of men always seek for some great and mighty person to deliver them. The rich, the famous, the mighty are praised night and day. The poor and lowly are often forgotten. This is not so with God. God does not look upon a man's status, but upon the heart. God does not look for one that is rich, but he makes one rich in spiritual blessings. So here, when God would deliver Israel yet again, he chooses not a great man, but Gideon.

What do we read of Gideon, when Gideon met the angel of the Lord in Ophrah? Gideon says, "Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house" (Judg. 6:15). Were these statements true?—perhaps. Were these truths a hindrance to the deliverance of Israel?—not at all. Why not? The Lord was at his side—"Surely I will be with thee" (Judg. 6:16). Here indeed is comfort: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). The ability to overcome does not rest within us, but in Him. What is it the Paul said concerning his strength? Did he say, "I can do all things"? No, he said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

Gideon Seeks a Sign—God's Tender Dealing

It was a weakness in Gideon that he sought a sign to confirm that God would deliver Israel by his hand. A sign he sought not once, but twice. It was a weakness because Gideon had a greater testimony than a sign, he had the Word of God. Had not God said to Gideon, "Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee" (Judg. 6:14)?

However, we ought not to condemn Gideon for his weakness, for this is a weakness that rises in the hearts of God's people time and again. Rather, it is better to consider how God tenderly deals with Gideon in the moment of his doubt. Why does God deal with him so? Because Gideon, no matter how weak and wavering he may have been at times, had faith. Are we not told in Hebrews 11, where we read of the faith of many Old Testament figures, that Gideon too had faith?

Outside of Christ, "God is a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:29). God is a Judge, therefore it cannot be otherwise. However, the believer, being reconciled to God by faith in Christ, has peace with God: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God (Rom. 5:1–2).

Gideon's Victory Over The Enemy

Gideon had over 30,000 men in his army. With an army of 30,000, surely Gideon could defeat the Midianites. However, 30,000 was too many for God's purpose. Eventually the 30,000 was reduced to 300. Maybe with an army of 30,000 they had a chance, but what could they hope to accomplish with just 300? Why so few? The Lord wanted to teach Gideon and the Israelites a lesson. What was the lesson? God wanted them to see where their victory came from. The lesson they needed to learn is found in the words of Zechariah: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zech. 4:6).

What sinful man cannot do because of the fall, God can do. A man cannot make himself acceptable to God. However, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5:19).

Questions

Judges 6

1. Who had oppressed Israel for seven years when God chose Gideon to deliver Israel?

2. The people that oppressed Israel for seven years were compared to _____.

- a. vipers
- b. wild cattle
- c. an East wind
- d. grasshoppers

3. Hearing the cry of the people, the Lord sends a prophet. The prophet reminds the people of:

- a. their deliverance from Egypt.
- b. the fall in Paradise.
- c. Noah’s ark.
- d. The confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel.

4. Where did the angel meet Gideon? What was Gideon doing at time the angel appeared?

5. Whose altar did God require Gideon to destroy?

6. What were the two signs that Gideon sought of God, whereby he might be sure that God would deliver Israel by his hand?

Judges 7

7. True or False: Jerubbaal is another name for Gideon?

8. When Gideon and the people were gathered at the well Harod, the Midianites were on the north side by the hill of:

- a. Carmel
- b. Moreh
- c. Ararat
- d. Ebal

9. What was Gideon's servant's name?

- a. Phurah
- b. Gehazi
- c. Eliezer
- d. Jambres

Judges 8

10. The princes of _____ refused to give bread to Gideon's army.

- a. Hebron
- b. Gibeon
- c. Succoth
- d. Heshbon

11. Jether was Gideon's

- a. father
- b. brother
- c. uncle
- d. son

Discussions

1. In Isaiah 9:6, we read concerning the Messiah that he is the "Prince of Peace." In Judges 6:24 Gideon builds an altar to the LORD, which he calls "Jehova-shalom." Explain how Jesus is the true Jehovah-shalom.

2. Discuss why God reduced Gideon's army to three hundred men. Discuss why the three hundred that lapped were chosen over the others.

3. Read chapter 9 and discuss the character of an ungodly king.

4. It appears that the time when God sends judges to deliver Israel is preceded by a time of captivity that is a result of returning to idolatry. Discuss why idolatry is a grievous sin.
