



Last Sunday we began a new series in Judges looking at Gideon. The big theme of these chapters is the strength of God and the weakness of human frailty. After spending time adoring God for his wonderful character with the 4Gs we now look at how the greatness of God works out in the life of a small insignificant and weak man. We all have weaknesses and failings and we all face circumstances that are beyond our human capacity but as we'll see in this chapter God delivers us in and through our weakness so we see his strength.

God delivers through weakness

God is the most unlikely candidate for being the saviour of the Israelites. They are facing the oppression of a Midianite army and he is no mighty warrior. We saw that he is unworthy because of his sin; like all Israel they'd turned to worship Baal. He was weak in his character and skill. He doubted and questioned God's character, he was the youngest and least in his family and tribe and all that he had to offer wasn't good enough in worship to the LORD God of heaven and earth.

Yes Gideon is speaking to the LORD as he finds out through the sacrifice he was speaking to the second person of the trinity appearing to him in human form. He was accepted by God and used by God by his grace. Peace was made between God and Gideon.

Trust in his power

Gideon then had to break down the altar to Baal and make a stand proving that the LORD was the true God and he was going to deliver Israel through Gideon. God chosen judge. Gideon stepped out in faith risking his life and broke down the

false altar erecting and proper altar with a proper sacrifice to the LORD. Gideon was proved to be right as Baal could not defend himself and therefore Gideon went on to become Israel's deliverer.

As we see our weakness and need for a saviour we look to God who has powerfully delivered us from sin and through all things through Jesus Christ who died in weaknesses suffering on a despised cross. He has the power to help us in anything.

Here are some questions to get you started on exploring the passage and driving home any application.

As we approach Judges, where are in the flow of the Bible story so far?

Read & summarise Judges 1 for your group (too much to read) and explain that Israel fought against the groups in Canaan but didn't destroy them completely.

Read Judges 2:1-5 and ask how had the Israelites disobeyed the LORD?

Read Judges 2:10-19 – What is the repeated pattern that goes on among the Israelites stated here but then seen throughout the book?

Read Judges 6:1-32 -Describe the situation facing the Israelites (1-6)

Why did the LORD send a prophet and not a Judge? – (7-10) How have Israel messed up all the promises of God?

What do we learn about Gideon in **(11-24)?** – How is he an unlikely candidate for a Judge/deliverer? How do we see his weakness?

Who is the angel of the LORD and how can Gideon be in his presence and live?

Describe the offering that Gideon gives and what the action of the angel of the LORD means?

How does this event point us to Jesus? How is strength in weakness seen at the cross? Meditate on the truth that we will see Jesus face to face in heaven.

What is the task God asks Gideon to accomplish **(25-32)** and how did it work out? Discuss how the second sacrifice on the proper altar is a better offering? What was the reaction of the townspeople? What did Gideon's survival prove?

How will you trust in God's power through your weakness? Share examples? How does this episode with Gideon encourage you?