

18) What did Gideon call the altar? Why?

Judges 6:27 (GW) ²⁷ Gideon took ten of his servants and did what the LORD had told him to do. However, he didn't do anything during the day. He was too afraid of his father's family and the men of the city, so he did it at night.

19) Is Gideon acting like a brave and mighty warrior? Why or why not?

Judges 6:30-32 (GW) ³⁰ Then the men of the city told Joash, "Bring your son out. He must die. He has torn down the Baal altar and cut down the Asherah pole that was beside it."

³¹ But Joash said to everyone standing around him, "You're not going to defend Baal, are you? Do you think you should save him? Whoever defends him will be put to death in the morning. If he's a god, let him defend himself when someone tears down his altar."

³² So that day they nicknamed Gideon "Jerubbaal" [Let Baal Defend Himself], because they said, "When someone tears down Baal's altar, let Baal defend himself."

20) Who is the brave one in the family?

21) What do we learn about the men that God calls?

22) How is this comforting for us today?

Rise Up, O Men of God

Judges 6:11 (GW) ¹¹ The Messenger of the LORD came and sat under the oak tree in Ophrah that belonged to Joash from Abiezer's family. Joash's son Gideon was beating out wheat in a winepress to hide it from the Midianites.

1) Why was Gideon hiding?

Judges 6:12-13 (GW) ¹² The Messenger of the LORD appeared to Gideon and said, "The LORD is with you, brave man."

¹³ Gideon responded, "Excuse me, sir! But if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all the miracles our ancestors have told us about? Didn't they say, 'The LORD brought us out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and has handed us over to Midian."

3) How did the angel of the Lord greet Gideon?

4) Why would this greeting be confusing to Gideon?

5) What question does Gideon ask?

Judges 6:14 (GW) ¹⁴ The LORD turned to him and said, "You will rescue Israel from Midian with the strength you have. I am sending you."

6) How does the angel answer Gideon's question?

7) What is surprising about this answer?

Judges 6:15 (GW) ¹⁵ Gideon said to him, “Excuse me, sir! How can I rescue Israel? Look at my whole family. It’s the weakest one in Manasseh. And me? I’m the least important member of my family.”

8) What do we learn about Gideon?

9) Why does Gideon disagree with the Angel’s greeting (verse 12)? The angels pronouncement (verse 14)?

Judges 6:16 (GW) ¹⁶ The LORD replied, “I will be with you. You will defeat Midian as if it were ₁only one man.”

10) How does the angel answer Gideon’s concerns?

11) How is this answer like the angel’s first answer to Gideon’s question?

Judges 6:17-18 (GW) ¹⁷ Gideon said to him, “If you find me acceptable, give me a sign that it is really you speaking to me.

¹⁸ Don’t leave until I come back. I want to bring my gift and set it in front of you.”

“I will stay until you come back,” he said.

12) Why do you think Gideon asked for a sign?

Judges 6:19(GW) ¹⁹ Then Gideon went into ₁his house₁ and prepared a young goat and unleavened bread made with 18 quarts of flour. He put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot. Then he went out and presented them to the Messenger of the LORD under the oak tree.

13) What is unusual about the food Gideon prepared?

14) Why do you think he brought this food that he angel?

Judges 6:20-21 (GW) ²⁰ The Messenger of the LORD told him, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread, put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” Gideon did so. ²¹ Then the Messenger of the LORD touched the meat and the bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared up from the rock and burned the meat and the bread. Then the Messenger of the LORD disappeared.

15) Why do you think the angel did not eat the food?

16) Why do you think the messenger only burned up the food?

Judges 6:22-24 (GW) ²² That’s when Gideon realized that this had been the Messenger of the LORD. So he said, “LORD God! I have seen the Messenger of the LORD face to face.”

²³ The LORD said to him, “Calm down! Don’t be afraid. You will not die.” ²⁴ So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD. He called it The LORD Calms. To this day it is still in Ophrah, which belongs to Abiezer’s family.

17) Why was Gideon afraid?