

Seeing the Lord's Strength in the Account of Gideon

Study Activity 1: The Call of Gideon

Read Judges 6:14–16, 23–27, looking for the Lord's instructions to Gideon. (It might be helpful to know that the bullock described in verses 25–26 was a symbol of Jesus Christ. Baal was a false idol worshipped by the Israelites. Groves were a place to worship false gods.)

- How did Gideon feel about what the Lord asked him to do?
- What promises did the Lord give to strengthen and help Gideon?
- What might the Lord have been teaching Gideon and the people with his instructions in verses 25–27?

On this handout or in your study journal, brainstorm several ways the Lord might strengthen us.

Study Activity 2: The Reduction of Gideon's Army

Gideon became the leader of an army of 32,000 Israelites (see Judges 7:3). The Midianites had an army of 135,000 people (see Judges 8:10). The strength of the Israelites was not going to come from having greater numbers.

Read Judges 7:2–7, looking for what the Lord wanted Gideon to do with his army.

- How small did Gideon's army end up being?
- Why did the Lord want it that small? (see Judges 7:2).

On this handout or in your study journal, draw some sort of representation illustrating the size difference between the Midianite army and Gideon's army.

- If you had been in Gideon's situation, what are some questions you might have had after receiving these instructions?
- What might these instructions have taught you about the Lord?

Study Activity 3: The Battle between Gideon's Army and the Midianites

The items illustrated are items Gideon instructed his men to bring with them to battle against the Midianite army.

Read Judges 7:15–16 to find these items.

- How might Gideon have used these items in battle against the Midianites?

The Lord had promised Gideon that the 300-man army would defeat the Midianites (see Judges 7:7). Read Judges 7:17–21; 8:28 to discover how the Lord fulfilled this promise.

On this handout or in your study journal, write a truth you learned from this story that could help you when facing challenges.

