

Judges 5:31b – So the land had rest for forty years

1) Judges 6:1-6 Oppression that drains life

Observation Questions

1. What repeated pattern shows up again in verse 1?
2. What exactly do the Midianites do and when do they do it (vv. 3–5)?
3. What are the visible effects of oppression on daily life (v. 2, v. 6)?

Interpretation Questions

1. Why do you think the text emphasizes Midian's impact on **harvest and sustenance**, not just violence?
2. What does it say about a society when people live in caves and “strongholds”?
3. What does this section suggest about how spiritual compromise eventually affects practical life?

Application (Discussion-forward)

1. What are some modern ways people experience “Midian-like pressure” (constant loss, burnout, anxiety, instability)?
2. What does it look like when a believer quietly normalizes “hiding” instead of living freely?
3. What tends to finally push people to cry out to God?

2) Judges 6:7-10 God answers the cry with truth before relief

Observation Questions

1. What is the first thing God sends when Israel cries out (v. 8)?

2. What does the prophet emphasize about God's past actions (vv. 8–9)?
3. What is the core charge in verse 10?

Interpretation Questions

1. Why would God send a rebuke before a rescue?
2. What does God's reminder of Egypt reveal about His heart and His history with His people?
3. What does verse 10 suggest about how we often misread our own problems?

Application

1. Why do people often want relief more than transformation?
2. What are common ways we blame "Midian" (circumstances, people, pressure) instead of asking what God is exposing?

3) Judges 6:11-13 Gideon: hiding, called, and confused

Observation Questions

1. What does Gideon's location and method of threshing reveal about the situation?
2. What's surprising about the Angel's greeting in verse 12?
3. What two complaints does Gideon raise in verse 13?

Interpretation Questions

1. Why might God speak identity to Gideon before Gideon acts like it?
2. What is Gideon assuming about God based on circumstances?
3. How do people confuse "God is with us" with "life should be easy"?

Application

1. What are common versions of Gideon's question today: "If God is with me/us, why...?"
2. How can a person or group keep faith when they don't see "miracles" like they expected?
3. What's the difference between honest lament and faithless cynicism?

4) Judges 6:14-16 The call: "Go... Have I not sent you?"

Observation Questions

1. What command does God give Gideon in verse 14?
2. What reasons does Gideon give for why he can't do it (v. 15)?
3. What is God's core promise in verse 16?

Interpretation Questions

1. Why does God often choose people who feel "least"?
2. What does "Surely I will be with you" imply about what Gideon actually needs most?
3. How does this correct the modern idea that confidence must come from self-esteem?

Application

1. What kinds of callings do people avoid because they feel unqualified?
2. Why is "I'm not enough" sometimes humility and sometimes a cover for fear?
3. What does it look like to "go in this might" (obedience + dependence) rather than waiting to feel powerful?

5) Judges 6:17-24 Confirmation, worship, and “The LORD is Peace”

Observation Questions

1. What does Gideon ask for (v. 17), and what does he bring (v. 19)?
2. What miracle happens in verse 21?
3. What is God’s message to Gideon in verse 23?

Interpretation Questions

1. Why does Gideon move from fear to worship?
2. What does naming the altar “The LORD is Peace” suggest about what Gideon learned?
3. How is God’s peace different from simply “life going smooth”?

Application

1. What kinds of reassurance do people seek from God when facing risk?
2. Why is worship often the turning point between fear and faith?
3. What does it look like to experience peace while still facing a hard assignment?

6) Judges 6:25-32 Before God fights the enemy, He confronts the idols

Observation Questions

1. What does God command Gideon to destroy first (vv. 25–26)?
2. What does Gideon’s nighttime obedience show (v. 27)?
3. What argument does Joash use that shifts the situation (v. 31)?

Interpretation Questions

1. Why do you think God starts with Gideon's household idol before the Midianite army?
2. What does the town's reaction reveal about how deeply Baal worship had taken hold?
3. What does Joash's defense suggest about the powerlessness of idols?

Application

1. What "respectable idols" are most common today (security, comfort, image, success, control)?
2. Why do people often want God to fix circumstances without confronting compromised worship?
3. What does courageous obedience look like when it might cost reputation, relationships, or comfort?

7) Judges 6:33-40 Spirit-empowered action... and lingering fear

Observation Questions

1. What changes when the Spirit comes upon Gideon (vv. 34–35)?
2. How does God respond to Gideon's repeated request (vv. 38–40)?

Interpretation Questions

1. Why might Gideon ask for reassurance after the Spirit comes upon him?
2. What's the difference between seeking confirmation and trying to control God?
3. How does God's patience here reveal His fatherly care?

Application

1. What does it look like today to take a step of obedience and trust God to provide strength along the way?
2. Why do people sometimes keep asking for signs when God has already spoken clearly in Scripture?
3. How can we encourage “faith steps” without shaming people who feel fear?