



# BROKEN RECORD

Studies in Judges-Ruth

*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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## Little Big Man Judges 6-8

The 1970 film, “Little Big Man” depicted some of the exploits of a Sioux warrior who was short, but very brave. His size didn’t matter because of the size of his heart. Similarly, this week’s study centers on Gideon who, although insignificant in his own eyes, had a heart belief in God that enabled Him to defeat the Midianites who had oppressed Israel for seven years. The story of this unlikely hero begins with a picture of the oppressive conditions in Israel. They had to hide in caves and when they sowed their seed it was immediately destroyed by their enemies. The result was that they were brought very low and cried out to God. He told them that their idolatry had caused this, but He moved to deliver them anyway. He called “little” Gideon to lead

the charge, who after receiving confirmation that God had indeed appointed him, pulled down the altar of Baal in their town. He then employed an unexpected strategy as directed by God. Calling all Israel to fight with him, and getting more reaffirmation from God using a wet or dry fleece, he led them into battle. God, though, told Gideon he had too many people, knowing that they would take credit for the victory. So, He directed him to tell everyone who was afraid to leave, paring the number from 22,000 to 10,000 troops. That was still too many, so only those who drank with one hand, looking out for the enemy could stay; this left a mere 300 warriors. God confirmed for Gideon that He would give victory by allowing him to overhear a Midianite dream, so Gideon



**To achieve God’s best for us we must break the cycle of disobedience and discipline.**

confidently led the charge the next morning. They won the battle and then as the chased the kings and unsurprising relapse occurred in Israel. First, Gideon punished his fellow Israelites in Succoth and Penuel for not supporting him as he chased the kings, and then he made an idolatrous ephod out of gold ornaments and began to rule over the people. They had peace for forty years, but then as soon as Gideon died Israel returned to idolatry and they failed to show kindness to Gideon’s household. They did not remember their God who had delivered them Gideon, His “little big man”.

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

## Study Questions for Judges 6-8

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study\\_questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study_questions))

<p>1. Read Judges 6:1-10. Who oppressed Israel next and why (v1)? Describe the conditions (v2, 3-4, 5) and the effect on Israel (v6)? What did they do (v7) and how did God respond (v8-10)?</p>	
<p>2. In 6:11-24 who appeared and how did He address Gideon (v11-12)? What was the conversation between Gideon and the Lord (v13-16)? What did Gideon request for confirmation and what happened (v17-24)?</p>	
<p>3. Using 6:25-32 how did the Lord direct Gideon (v25-26) and how did he respond (v27)? What was the people’s reaction (v28-30) and how did his dad answer them (v31-32)? Why was this good?</p>	

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## Judges 6-8 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From Judges 6:33-40 what occurred (v33), how did Gideon respond, and why (v34-35)? What did he do next (v36-37, 39) and how did God respond (v38, 40)? Was this evidence of Gideon's faith or his lack of faith? Why?

5. Looking at 7:1-8 what was God's twofold instruction (v3, 4-5) and why (v1-2)? What resulted (v3, 6)? What did God promise (v7) and how did the 300 respond (v8)?

6. In 7:9-18 what did God tell Gideon and why (v9-10, 11)? What occurred (v12-14) and how was Gideon affected (v15)? What was his strategy and who was it for (v16-18)?

7. Based on 7:19-8:3 describe the battle (v19-20, 21-22) and the pursuit (v23-24). What was the twofold outcome (v25, 8:1) and how did Gideon handle the conflict (8:2-3)?

8. According to 8:4-17 who was pursued (v4-5) and what happened (v6-7, 8-9, 10-13)? What did Gideon then do (v13-17), and do you think this was right in God's eyes?

9. Using 8:18-28 what did Gideon ask (v18) and what did he then do (v19-21)? What did Israel then request (v22)? How do you explain his twofold response (v23, 24-26) and what was the outcome (v27)?

10. Read 8:29-35. What resulted (v28) and then what happened (v29-32)? How and when did this change (v33-34, 35) and why (v34)?

11 Looking back over 6-8 why was Gideon an unlikely hero and how was God's strategy unexpected? Why do you think He did it this way and how can you apply that in your life? Explain Israel's relapse and how that is like us so often.

### Scripture to Remember

“But the Lord said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man.’”

**Judges 6:16 (NASB)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—A Perfect Substitute (Luke 23:1-25)

*(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Tell the group about some typical things that rattle your cage/get you upset. Do you think those things are usually intentional? Why do you think people do those things?
2. Look at Luke 23:1-25 and review the 3 groups that had to deal with Jesus (v1-7, 8-12, 13-17). In general how did Jesus respond to their mistreatment of Him? Why?
3. Talk about how Pilate's comfort zone was threatened by Jesus and how he tried to handle it—avoidance, and then accommodation. Why do we take those two approaches?
4. Share with the group why we often refuse to take a stand when it will cost us and keep our mouths shut when we dissent. Why are these poor approaches in God's eyes?
5. How was Herod an example of a seared conscience, and what do you think that means? What is the only way to deal with this situation if a person has it?
6. Discuss how people react when their control is threatened and why. Why does this lead to “religious” systems either killing Jesus or reinventing a false Jesus? Give examples.
7. Talk about the significance of Jesus' death in place of Barabbas and how it relates to us. What should our response be in light of this?