



God Uses Gideon to Deliver Israel

Judges 6–8



LESSON GOAL

Students will humbly and gratefully obey God, who chooses to deliver His people.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Explain why the Israelites were suffering under the Midianites.
- Describe Gideon's character before and after the Midianite defeat.
- Explain why Israel did not deserve deliverance.
- Summarize the events of the Midianite defeat.

KEY VERSE

"[Gideon] returned to the camp of Israel, and said, 'Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand'" (Judges 7:15b).

APPLICATION

- Admit that you are unworthy of God's grace and deliverance.
- Respond to God's gracious deliverance with obedience.
- Be ready to be used as an instrument for God's glory.

NEXT WEEK

God Uses Samson to Deliver Israel
Read Judges 13–16.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

At the end of Judges 2, God announced a terrible judgment against Israel. Because they refused to remove the Canaanites from the Promised Land and chose to worship the Canaanite gods, God’s anger was “hot against Israel” (Judg. 2:20). God’s judgment on Israel was that He no longer would drive out the Canaanite nations (2:21). Living among the Canaanites would be a test for Israel to see whether they would keep the Lord’s ways or live and worship like the Canaanites (2:22–23; 3:4).

Throughout the book of Judges, Israel never responded righteously to the test of the Canaanite presence. Instead, they entered a dark cycle of rebellion and punishment. The Israelites repeatedly rejected the Lord and embraced idolatry, suffered the Lord’s punishment, cried out to the Lord, were delivered by Him, and enjoyed a period of rest, only to return once again to idolatry (Judg. 2:11–19). Judges 3–16 illustrates this basic cycle with God’s deliverance of Israel through six judges. The first three judges used to illustrate this cycle are Othniel (3:7–11), Ehud (3:12–30), and Deborah (4:1–5:31). The fourth cycle in Judges is God’s deliverance through Gideon. Because of the spiritual state of both Israel and Gideon, only God was glorified in His deliverance of Israel.

A People Unworthy of Deliverance (Judges 6:1–10)

Judges 6:1 begins with words often repeated in Judges: “Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD.” This fourth cycle begins just as the first three (Judg. 3:7,12; 4:1). The Lord once again responded to Israel’s idolatry by delivering them into the hands of their enemies. For seven years, the Midianites (along with the “Amalekites and the people of the East”) oppressed Israel, forcing Israel to flee to the mountains for safety (Judg. 6:1–3). The Midianite oppression was methodological. After the Israelites had sown their fields each year, the Midianites would encamp, “destroy the produce,” and “leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey” (6:4). With their livestock, tents, and camels, the Midianites were as numerous and destructive as the locusts which strip the land of everything green. While God had promised to bless Israel’s obedience with the destruction of their enemies (Deut. 28:7), Israel was instead living under God’s curse for their disobedience (Deut. 28:25,33–34). How tragic was the oppression that Israel had chosen!

Because of the fierceness of the oppression, Israel cried out to God (Judg. 6:6). Even through Israel resented God’s commands, they needed His deliverance. Before sending deliverance, the Lord sent an unnamed prophet to proclaim the righteousness of God’s judgment (Judg. 6:7–11). He reminded the people of everything that God had done for Israel and rebuked them for their disobedience. Noticeably absent from the prophet’s message is any promise of deliverance. If God delivered Israel, it would be despite their disobedience.

Additional Reference Materials

Judges, Ruth; New American Commentary by Daniel I. Block

Such a Great Salvation: Expositions of the Book of Judges by Dale Ralph Davis

Ruth. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 3* by F. B. Huey Jr.

Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament by John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, eds.

Judges. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 3* by Herbert Wolf

A Man Unworthy of Being Deliverer (Judges 6:11–40)

Before advancing to the deliverance of Israel, the narrative continues with a painful look at the state of Israel, including the unworthiness of the deliverer whom God had chosen. The angel of the Lord came to Gideon, who was cautiously threshing grain in a winepress (a large depression in a rock) “in order to hide it from the Midianites” (Judg. 6:11). What a poignant picture of Israel’s fragile state! The angel of the Lord encouragingly called Gideon a “mighty man of valor” and blessed him, saying, “The LORD is with you” (6:12). Instead of being encouraged, Gideon assaulted the character of God by asking why Israel had been oppressed and why God hadn’t done miracles on Israel’s behalf (6:13). Gideon blamed God for Israel’s oppression. Not responding to Gideon’s complaint, the Lord commissioned Gideon to save Israel from the Midianites. Not understanding that it was God alone who would deliver Israel, Gideon complained that he was too young (“least in my father’s house”) and too weak (“my clan is the weakest in Manasseh”) to deliver them (6:15). The Lord again promised that His presence would be with Gideon and that Midian would be defeated (6:16).

Gideon spoke as someone who neither knew nor trusted God. He not only asked God for a sign (6:17), but he also was rather bold in determining what sign he wanted God to perform (6:18–19). Only after fire rose from the rock and consumed the offering did Gideon show fear for God (6:21–22). More is revealed about Gideon’s past as the Lord commanded him to tear down his father’s altar to Baal and the Asherah pole and replace them with an altar to the Lord (6:25–27). Gideon’s family (and probably Gideon) were immersed in idolatry and pagan worship. If Gideon was to be used by God, he needed to visibly break from that demonic system. Gideon obeyed God but did so at night “because he feared his father’s household and the men of the city too much to do it by day” (6:27). When the people of the city sought to kill Gideon for destroying the shrine (6:28–32), they revealed how unworthy of deliverance they were.

The God Who Delivers (Judges 6:33–7:22)

Gideon’s fear and doubt are important in showing that it was God alone who would deliver Israel. From man’s perspective, Gideon was the most unlikely person to be used by God. Yet the “Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon” (Judg. 6:34). Gideon’s success in calling his clan, as well as the rest of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, can be attributed only to the presence of God’s empowering Spirit (6:34–35). Gideon’s fearful character became even more obvious when he tested God again by seeing if He would make the fleece either wet or dry, contrary to the morning ground (6:36–40). God’s patience is amazing. Although Gideon knew perfectly well what God had commanded him to do, he did not trust God’s previous promises. God justly could have ignored Gideon’s repeated requests and allowed His people to continue in their punishment. Instead, God chose to deliver His people and give Gideon the encouragement he wanted.

God used fearful Gideon to show that He alone would deliver Israel. For the same reason, God reduced the number of Israelite troops from 32,000 to 300. The Lord would not let “Israel claim glory for itself...saying, ‘My own hand has saved me’” (Judg. 7:2). God wanted Israel to have no claim to victory over the Midianites except God’s own deliverance. First, the Lord sent away all who were afraid of the upcoming battle; 22,000 left (7:3). Second, the Lord separated those who lapped water like a dog from those who knelt down to drink from the river (7:4–5). The 300 who lapped water like a dog were chosen to battle against the Midianites.

Intent on delivering the people, God once again strengthened the heart of fearful Gideon. God sent Gideon into the Midianite camp (Judg. 7:9–12), gave one of the men in the camp a dream of the defeat of Midian (7:13–14), and sovereignly arranged the events so that Gideon heard both the dream and its interpretation (7:15). Encouraged, Gideon worshiped God, returned to the camp of Israel, and announced, “Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand” (7:15). Gideon embraced God’s deliverance of the people and commanded that the 300 men divide into even smaller groups of 100 each. He gave each man a pitcher, torch, and trumpet (7:15–18). With newfound courage, Gideon led the men around the Midianite camp. Probably at midnight (“the beginning of the middle watch”), Gideon and the men blew their trumpets, smashed the pitchers with the torches inside, and shouted, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!” (7:19–22). The shout, the bright light, and the crashing pitchers terrified the Midianites in the camp so that they “ran and cried out and fled” (7:21). In the midst of the dark chaos, “the LORD set every man’s sword against his companion throughout the whole camp” (7:22). Judges 8:10 reveals that 120,000 men “who drew the sword had fallen” with only 15,000 of the Midianites escaping. When Gideon and the troops shouted, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon,” they shouted with confidence that God had given the battle to Gideon. Ironically, God won the battle (“the sword”) without Israel even having to swing a sword!

A Man Unworthy of Being Deliverer, Part 2 (Judges 7:23–8:35)

Gideon did much good for Israel (Judg. 8:35). God used him to subdue Midian and give Israel peace for 40 years (8:28). While Gideon was still alive, the people refrained from their rampant Baal worship. Although the final analysis was positive, much of the rest of Gideon’s life pointed to his unworthiness as a deliverer.

Although the text does not reveal whether God commanded the pursuit of the Midianites (Judg. 7:23–8:21), the narrative paints an alarming picture of Israel and Gideon. The tribe of Ephraim, obviously unaware that it was God who had given Gideon the victory, was offended not to have been part of the defeat of Midian. Gideon’s diplomatic answer does not seem to glorify God in the victory as much as would be expected (Judg. 8:2–3). When two Israelite towns, Succoth and Penuel, refused to help Gideon in his pursuit of the Midianites, Gideon angrily promised to have revenge on the towns. Gideon’s pursuit of the two Midianite kings to the Midianite border seems more fueled by vengeance (8:18–19) than a desire to deliver Israel. Returning with the captured kings, he tortured the leaders of Succoth and killed the inhabitants of Penuel—his fellow Israelites (8:16–17)! Gideon’s request to his firstborn son to kill the Midianite kings is alarming, and his taking of the ornaments worn on the necks of the king’s camels suggests that Gideon was showing his own power. He seems to have lost all concern for the glory of God! The narrative has shifted from its focus on God working to deliver Israel to the cruelty of Gideon and the fighting among the Israelites.

When Israel requested that Gideon and his family be their king, Gideon refused, saying, “The LORD shall rule over you” (Judg. 8:23). While such sentiments are admirable, Gideon’s actions betray a desire to be king, in practice if not in word. He required a part of each Israelite’s plunder and kept the clothes of the Midianite kings (8:24–26). Even more alarming is that Gideon made an ephod with the gold and set it up in his home city where “all Israel played the harlot with it there. It became a snare to Gideon and to his house” (8:27). Somehow, the ephod became an object of worship. Gideon also disobeyed God and took a concubine from the Canaanite town of Shechem (8:31).

Both Gideon and Israel remind the reader of the remarkableness of God’s deliverance of Israel from the Midianites. God’s choice to deliver Israel and His choice

of Gideon as the instrument of deliverance are not because Israel or Gideon deserved the honor, but because God gave grace to the people. While Gideon trusted in God, the real hero of this narrative is God, who glorified Himself by delivering an unworthy people and by using an unworthy deliverer. God's deliverance of Israel was dependent on Israel's obedience to Him.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

At the end of the book of Joshua, what did the people tell Joshua they would do? *The people said, "The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!" (Josh. 24:24). They swore that they would serve God.*

Did they do this?

They "served the LORD all the days of Joshua" (Josh. 24:31). After Joshua's death, however, the people began to do evil in the sight of the Lord and served other gods. They began to be influenced by the people around them (Judg. 2:11–15).

How did God feel about this, and what did He do?

Judges 2:14 says, "The anger of the LORD was hot against Israel." God delivered the people into the hands of plunderers. Because of this, Israel was greatly distressed.

Do you think that God will continue to take care of Israel?

Yes.



Midianite Oppression

To help the students understand how the Midianites oppressed Israel, have some volunteers pretend to be Israelites. Have them pick imaginary fruit, bake imaginary bread, and feed imaginary animals. Have other volunteers pretend to be Midianite soldiers. Brandishing play swords, the soldiers rush into the classroom and take the fruit, bread, and animals. The Israelites should scatter and either hide or run from the room. Explain that God was punishing the Israelites by allowing the surrounding nations to oppress them.



Worthy to Be Rescued?

Ask the students if they ever have seen a rescue operation on television, maybe from a car accident or from the sea. Rescuers are specially trained to help people who are in trouble. Gideon was used by God to rescue the Israelites even though he did not have any special training and did not think that he could do the job. People who are rescued have not done anything special to warrant being rescued.



The rescuers are merely carrying out their duties. Israel had also not done anything special to warrant their rescue. In fact, they had been disobedient. But God chose to rescue them because it is His nature to be merciful, not because Israel deserved mercy. Ask the students whether they ever have had an opportunity to help someone in need? What was this like? How did the person express gratitude?

What Do Your Prayers Say?

The Israelites repeatedly sinned against God and consequently were oppressed by their enemies. When their situation became unbearable, they cried out to God for deliverance. They did not, however, display any repentance, worship, or gratitude. Some did not turn to God even in the harshest circumstances. Ask the students what they pray to God for. Do they merely ask for things from God? Do they pray for other people and thank God for the good things He provides? Do they completely forget to pray?

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read Judges 6–8.

Introduction

During the time of the judges, the Israelites often were troubled by other nations. But they were not innocent; they were doing exactly what the people around them were doing. They were worshiping other gods, not the one true God. Because of their disobedience, God used the other nations to teach them not to disobey and rebel against Him. Usually, after times became very hard, the Israelites would turn to God, repent, and ask Him for deliverance. God raised up judges to deliver the Israelites from their troubles and to lead them. Gideon was one of those people whom God called to be a judge.



Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: What troubles were the Israelites having?

Answer: Each year, after the Israelites had sown seed in the ground and the food had grown, the Midianites would steal or destroy everything in the land. The Midianites also took the Israelites’ animals. For six years, the Midianites, the Amalekites, and the sons of the East moved into the land with their tents and their animals. They took whatever they wanted. The Israelites were so afraid of those

people that they did not even fight, but went into the caves and dens in the mountains. After many years, the Israelites became very poor and called on God for help.

LOQ: Why did the Israelites have all these problems?

Answer: The Israelites were being disobedient to God. They were worshiping other gods, not the God of Israel. So God allowed the Israelites' enemies to cause problems so that the Israelites might turn to God, repent, and ask Him to help them. After the Israelites had called out to God, God sent a prophet to speak to them. Through the prophet, God told them that He was their God, but they had rejected Him. He made it clear that they had caused their own suffering because of their disobedience to Him.

LOQ: Whom did God call to help deliver the Israelites from their troubles?

Answer: God appeared to a man named Gideon. God told Gideon that He would use him to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites.

LOQ: How many men were chosen to fight with Gideon?

Answer: There were only 300 men chosen to fight with Gideon. At the beginning, there were 32,000 men, but God didn't want to send that many.

LOQ: Why did God want to send only 300 men with Gideon?

Answer: If only 300 men and Gideon went to fight all the Midianites (who had 135,000 men, according to Judges 8:10), it would be clear that God had helped them win the battle. God did not want any of the Israelites to think that they had won the battle because of their own strength. God wanted the Israelites to know that He was strong and that they should fear Him, not other gods such as Baal.

LOQ: How did Gideon and the 300 men attack the Midianites?

Answer: One night, Gideon and the 300 men all took trumpets and empty pitchers with torches inside. When Gideon gave the signal, all the men blew their trumpets, broke the pitchers, held out the torches, and cried out, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon" (Judg. 7:20).

LOQ: What happened when the Midianites saw and heard Gideon and his men?

Answer: When all the 300 trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the Midianites to attack each other with their swords and run away. The Midianites were very frightened and confused. They could not see what was happening because it was night, so they tried to protect themselves and run away. What the Midianites did not know was that there was only Gideon and 300 men. When the Midianites were running away, Gideon sent messages to the other Israelites, telling them to attack the Midianites. After Gideon defeated the Midianites, there was peace in the land for 40 years.

Summary

The Midianites were stealing all that the Israelites had grown in their fields and on their farms. This made life very difficult for the Israelites, but God allowed this to happen because they had turned away from Him and were disobedient. The Israelites were following other gods. When the Israelites turned to God and repented, God chose a man named Gideon to deliver them. Gideon and 300 other

men, a small number compared to all the Midianites, were able to destroy many of the enemies by God's help.

Application

When we are disobedient, God allows us to have troubles. Sometimes He allows a lot of troubles in our lives because we are stubborn and choose not to be obedient to Him. But when we look to Him for help, He is able to deliver us. When we turn to God, He will help. If we are disobedient, we must ask God to forgive us and must be obedient to His Word.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



The Voice of the Prophet

You can teach the background to this lesson by having an adult volunteer enter the class dressed as a prophet. He can speak to as the prophet would have spoken to Israel, explaining how they had disobeyed God's instructions.



Surprise!

Demonstrate what it would have been like to be surrounded by Gideon's army. Turn off the lights at the appropriate time during the lesson. Instruct teachers and helpers to be waiting along the perimeter of the class. Each should have a flashlight. When you give the signal, have them turn on the flashlights and shout, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"



The Vicious Cycle

Make a large version of the "The Vicious Cycle" craft page (from Lesson 1). Before the lesson, review with the students the cycle of Israel's refusal to repent, God's punishment through oppressors, and God's pity and deliverance. As you teach the lesson of Gideon, turn the craft to the appropriate section.



Heroes

What is a hero? A hero is someone who does great things and is admired and imitated by others. None of the people in today's story is a hero. The Israelites are weak and fearful. Even God's chosen servant, Gideon, is scared. He blames God for his troubles, complains, worships idols, and does not glorify God when God delivers Israel. But there is one amazing hero. God is the hero! He deserves all the glory and honor for delivering the Israelites.



God's Patience

It is remarkable that God was so patient with Gideon. When the angel of the Lord came to Gideon, Gideon blamed God for Israel's troubles. Then he grumbled and complained and was afraid. Gideon boldly demanded signs and miracles from God, even up to the final minutes before God would deliver the Midianite army. Then, afterward, Gideon claimed the glory for himself as Israel's deliverer. Gideon clearly was not worthy of God's favor and mercy. And neither are we. God is

merciful to us even though we don't deserve to be saved. We should praise God for His mercy and serve Him with all our hearts.

Praise and Worship

Awesome God

Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Make Me a Servant

My God Is So Great

Trust and Obey

Undivided Heart

We Will Glorify

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Do You Think as God Thinks?

God has given us the ability to think, which is a wonderful gift to help us make decisions. We must, however, be careful not to think we are smarter than God. God knows everything, and He always knows what is best, even when it does not make sense to us. Gideon is a good example of this. We would never choose someone as timid and fearful as Gideon to lead an army. Yet God used him to show that it was only through God's strength that Israel could defeat their enemies. The weakness of Gideon only served to highlight God's strength. God surely does know best.



Torch and Jar

Materials: paper lunch bags, toilet-paper or paper-towel tubes, orange and yellow crepe paper streamers

Directions: Have the students color their bags and fold down about two inches of the open edge to create a pot. Tape the verse to outside of bag. Students can color (or cover with foil) the tube or torch handle and tape some yellow and orange crepe-paper streamers inside one end of the torch to represent flames. Punch a hole in one side of the tube and another hole in the folded edge of the paper bag "jar." Tie a two-foot piece of string from the hole in the tube to the hole in the bag. Have fun practicing how Gideon and his men surrounded the Midianites, blew their trumpets, took the jars off their torches, and shouted.



Horn Trumpet

Have each student create a horn trumpet like Gideon and his men used when attacking the Midianite camp. Give each student a party horn, a four-foot piece or yarn, and a piece of paper. Cover the party horn with the paper, and punch a hole on each end. Thread the yarn through the holes for carrying. Glue or tape the memory verse to the horn. This horn trumpet, along with the torch and pot crafts, can be used in a dramatization of lesson.



What Is God Preparing Me For?

To review the lesson, tell the students that they now can see how God chose Gideon and then prepared him to fulfill what God had called him to do. Explain that we also can see how God prepared Moses, Samuel, the disciples, and Paul for service. God calls us to be His children, to serve Him, to glorify Him, and to show His power (of salvation) to those around us. Talk specifically to your students about whether they are His children, and if so, how God has been preparing them or growing them spiritually to trust and depend more and more on Him. Can they see what God might be preparing them for? This may be as simple as God preparing them to have more patience with their siblings. Or it could be something like preparing them to one day be a missionary. Tell them that God can use us for the small things as well as the big. God uses all His children to further His kingdom. Each of us is being prepared for something.



Save My Life

This craft is continued from the first week.

Materials: paper grocery bags, markers or crayons, scissors, glue sticks, yellow construction paper, aluminum foil or metallic paper

Directions:

Week 1: Cut each grocery bag into a vest. Write each student's name on the left front.

Week 2: On the back of the vest, students can write "God is my Rescuer" in large letters. (For younger students, this could be photocopied on a sheet of paper and then glued or taped to the back of the vest.) Cut strips of yellow construction paper to glue onto the bag as decorative stripes.

Week 3: Cut strips of foil or metallic paper to glue to the vests as reflectors.



"God Uses Gideon to Deliver Israel"

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



2
3

Journal Page: "Undeserved Favor"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

"He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, 'Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand'" (Judges 7:15b).



Memory Verse Game

Have the students sit in a circle on the floor. Pass two bean bags around the circle, one in each direction. The student who ends up with both bags at the same time must say the memory verse. The other students in the circle can help him say the verse. Continue to pass the bags until someone else is caught with both. Repeat the verse.

God

Uses Gideon
to Deliver **Israel**



Judges 6–8

Name _____

1. Judges 6:1 says the children of Israel did _____ in the sight of the Lord.
2. God punished the Israelites by allowing the Midianites to _____ the produce of the earth (Judg. 6:4).
3. How did Gideon respond to God's call? _____
He praised God. He built an altar.
He complained. He ran for the hills.
4. God promised Gideon, "Do not fear, you shall not _____" (Judg. 6:23).
5. God wanted to use a small number to fight the Midianites so Israel would not claim _____ for themselves (Judg. 7:4).
6. Who was responsible for the defeat of the Midianites? _____
7. Were the people faithful to God? (See Judges 8:34.) _____

Undeserved Favor

“Arise for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand”
(Judges 7:15b).

Have you ever been rewarded for doing something right? Perhaps you were rewarded with a trip to the toy store, or maybe you were taken to your favorite restaurant. We all like to feel that we deserve to be rewarded, but do you know that there is nothing we can do to be worthy of God's blessings? He gives His blessings not because we deserve them, but because He is good and gracious. This means that He gives us His blessings even though we do not deserve them, and when He does, we are receiving His undeserved favor. Unscramble the word below to find out another word for undeserved favor.

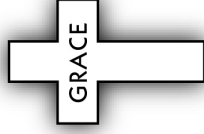
CRGEA = _____

Now, unscramble the words below to find out who in today's Bible lesson received God's blessings even though they were sinning against Him.

EIDGNO = _____

AETSSRIEIL = _____

When God shows His grace by rewarding sinners such as Gideon, the Israelites, you, and me, His grace is abundant, and overflowing. Can you remember a time when He showed you His favor even when you were sinning? Write about it in the space below.



Undeserved Favor

“Arise for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand”
(Judges 7:15b).

Have you ever been rewarded for doing something right? Perhaps you were rewarded with a trip to the toy store, or maybe you were taken to your favorite restaurant. We all like to feel that we deserve to be rewarded, but do you know that there is nothing we can do to be worthy of God's blessings? He gives His blessings not because we deserve them, but because He is good and gracious. This means that He gives us His blessings even though we do not deserve them, and when He does, we are receiving His undeserved favor. Unscramble the word below to find out another word for undeserved favor.

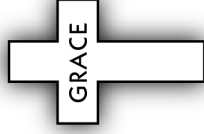
CRGEA = _____

Now, unscramble the words below to find out who in today's Bible lesson received God's blessings even though they were sinning against Him.

EIDGNO = _____

AETSSRIEIL = _____

When God shows His grace by rewarding sinners such as Gideon, the Israelites, you, and me, His grace is abundant, and overflowing. Can you remember a time when He showed you His favor even when you were sinning? Write about it in the space below.



Now that you know that God shows grace even when we are sinning, should you sin in order for Him to show you more grace? Paul answers in Romans 6:2, "God forbid." In other words, "Absolutely not!" Paul explains that if you obey sin, you are sin's slave, but if you obey God, you are His servant and will produce fruit of holiness and in the end have eternal life. His grace is working in your life when you choose good, so doesn't it make sense to be His servant and live a life that pleases Him? Of course!

God's grace is working in me in this way: _____

I can show my thankfulness to God for His grace by _____

This week I will choose to obey God and not sin by _____

Write out Romans 6:2 below.

Now that you know that God shows grace even when we are sinning, should you sin in order for Him to show you more grace? Paul answers in Romans 6:2, "God forbid." In other words, "Absolutely not!" Paul explains that if you obey sin, you are sin's slave, but if you obey God, you are His servant and will produce fruit of holiness and in the end have eternal life. His grace is working in your life when you choose good, so doesn't it make sense to be His servant and live a life that pleases Him? Of course!

God's grace is working in me in this way: _____

I can show my thankfulness to God for His grace by _____

This week I will choose to obey God and not sin by _____

Write out Romans 6:2 below.

PRAYER

Thank Christ for His grace. Tell Him how you feel about the grace He has given you. Finish your prayer time by singing "God Is So Good."

PRAYER

Thank Christ for His grace. Tell Him how you feel about the grace He has given you. Finish your prayer time by singing "God Is So Good."



“Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites” (Judges 6:11).



“Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers...and they cried, ‘The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!’ And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled” (Judges 7:20–21).

