

# **How a Nation Unravels: The Book of Judges**

Lesson 4

Judges 6-7

January 30, 2022

## **One Person + God = A Majority**

### **Introduction**

At a youth ropes course weekend, there was a day the staff led the students blindfolded to a set of ropes on the ground. The view of the configuration was a mystery, and the only direction given was the words, “When you’ve reached your last rope, raise your hand and ask for help.”

The students thought these words meant they should walk along the ropes until they found the end. But, in truth, the ropes were tied in such a way that there was no end. They wound around trees and back on top of each other, but there never was a definite finish line.

The point of the exercise was to ask for help, and some students figured this out relatively quickly. They were adept at asking for help and weren’t afraid to ask. These students had their bandana removed and were quietly escorted out of the maze. Consistently, students raised their hands until there was one boy left.

The counselors continued to call out the direction: “When you’ve reached your last rope, raise your hand and ask for help.” The boy walked in and out, around, and through the ropes but never asked for help. He was determined to finish on his own.

At his wit’s end, he hit the ropes in frustration and sat down, thinking himself an idiot for not having finished his task when everybody else had already attained it. Then, a counselor asked him gently if he would like some help, and he said yes. Only then were his eyes opened to his pride in not asking for help when he needed it.

***Memory verse: “The LORD said to Gideon, with the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.”  
—Judges 7:7***

Pray and read Judges 6-7. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

**What does the passage say?**

1. To whom did the Lord give the Israelites? (Judges 6:1)
2. What made the Israelites cry out to the Lord for help? (Judges 6:6)
3. What was the promise made to Gideon? (Judges 6:16)
4. What was Gideon’s first task? (Judges 6:25-26)
5. Why did the Lord ask Gideon to reduce his men? (Judges 7:2)
6. What were the soldiers to shout upon Gideon’s command? (Judges 7:18)

7. What happened once the trumpets blasted and the soldiers shouted? (Judges 7:22)

### **What does the passage mean?**

1. The oppression of Israel by the Midianites was a direct result of Israel's sin. They were humbled and humiliated. Their land and crops were taken. They were forced to live in hiding. What did God want them to do? (2 Chronicles 7:14) At what point in the Israelite story did God step in? (Judges 6:6)
  
2. The problem wasn't that Midian was strong, but that Israel wasn't obedient and didn't rely on God. Israel was the problem. Why did God remind them of His miraculous works? (Judges 6:7-10)
  
3. God was with Gideon. Gideon's strength came from the power of God, and the Spirit enabled him to do mighty works. Do we have the same promise that God is with us? (Matthew 28:20) Why is this important to remember?

4. Gideon asked for many signs from God, showing that He would follow through on His promise. Was it wrong for Gideon to ask for a sign? (Deuteronomy 6:16; Isaiah 7:10-17; Matthew 12:38-40). What is the difference between asking for a sign and testing God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Judges 7:22 shows that God did the work, not Gideon's army. How is this like what Jesus did for us? (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24) Why is it important to remember that we can't save ourselves? (Ephesians 2:8-9)

### **Applying the passage**

1. What circumstances have you tried to handle yourself rather than calling on God? Why was it your first instinct to figure it out on your own?

