



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 2

God's People
Gideon
– Leave room for God

Bible Readings
Judges 6-8



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the theme of “leaving room for God” in the Bible.
- Express the theme or story in your own way.
- Apply your learning from the story to your own family and community.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question Xxxxx

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Life Table

On a piece of paper divide the page up into 7 sections representing each day of the week. Write down all of the different activities that you're involved in for the week; it may be things like school, church, catching up with friends, playing a sport, doing homework, jobs at home, etc, be specific.

Once you've done this, repeat the activity but this time note down the things you would rather be doing with your time. This may be things like travelling overseas, playing your favourite sports, volunteering in your community etc.

Share with the group your responses to each "Life Table".

MONDAY	
WHAT I DO	WHAT I RATHER DO

WEDNESDAY	
WHAT I DO	WHAT I RATHER DO

FRIDAY	
WHAT I DO	WHAT I RATHER DO

SUNDAY	
WHAT I DO	WHAT I RATHER DO

TUESDAY	
WHAT I DO	WHAT I RATHER DO

THURSDAY	
WHAT I DO	WHAT I RATHER DO

SATURDAY	
WHAT I DO	WHAT I RATHER DO

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Judges 7:1-23

The book of Judges tells several stories that centred on a time in Israel's history when they'd entered the promised land just after the death of Joshua.

Judges were appointed by God to lead the people of Israel. When crises struck, judges (leaders) came to steer the people back to their faith in God and away from the worship of other gods Israel encountered.

Gideon lived during a time when Israel was still establishing itself within Canaan. The people were still relatively nomadic; they didn't have an established city or government, and they were very vulnerable to attacks from other nations within the land. Aside from the fear of being driven out of the land, the Israelites also wrestled with their faith, frequently turning to the local gods and deities for wisdom rather than God.

Gideon's story revolves around a battle. The Israelite people are living in caves, all of their crops were being destroyed by the Midianites, and altars (places of worship) were being built to Baal, a local god.

God calls to Gideon and tells him that Gideon will drive the Midianites from the land with God's help. However, as the battle draws near, God informs Gideon that his forces are too large. God doesn't want Israel to boast in its victory, but rather give the honour to God (Judges 7:2-3). So the fighting force is reduced significantly through various tests and Gideon enters the battle and wins the day. Gideon was faithful to God, and the credit for the victory went to God, rather than the strength of Gideon's army.

Gideon allowed room for God to work rather than relying upon his own strength and wisdom.

Explore – Express

Refer back to your Life Table.

How would it look differently if you made room for God to operate within your life?

Would there be anything that you would change about the way you spend your time, priorities, or the things you choose to do?

Is there anything you'd like to add or subtract from your table?

Share your thoughts with the group.

Explore – Integrate

When you read the story of Gideon, what things strike you about it?

What are the points of interest, wonder or confusion?

What are some of the things that our culture uses as sources of wisdom, understanding, guidance, etc? Do you think that God could be at work through some of these things? How?

Are there times in your life when you put your trust, faith, and hope in wisdom other than God's? What is the most challenging thing about relying upon God?

In what ways could you actively seek out God's wisdom and direction within your own life? Are there any other ways that you can do this? Who could help you with this?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Recite this Psalm together as a final prayer for today:

Psalm 19:1-2 & 14

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night the display knowledge.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.