



## Community Group Study: Overprepared Battle Plan

### Getting Started

Are you more of a planner/analyzer or more of a seat-of-the-pants person when it comes to preparing for something? Explain.

Read Judges 6-7

### Discussion

After a 40-year peace following God's defeat of the Canaanites and their 900 chariots, Israel again did evil, and God allowed the Midianites to move into Israel and oppress His people. In your own words, describe the circumstances of the people of Israel. 6:2-6 and 6:11 will help.

The Canaanites in Judges 4 had 900 iron chariots as their seemingly unconquerable asset. What was the great advantage, humanly speaking, of the Midianites in Judges 6-7 (6:5; 7:12)?

For what reason did the Israelites believe God had forsaken them (6:13)? Is the absence of dramatic miracles evidence of God's abandoning His people, not being involved in our lives? Explain.

What did Gideon mention as his liabilities in 6:15? What reason does God repeatedly give to assure Him, despite these things? See 6:12, 14, 16. Are you ever tempted to doubt that God can work in your circumstances because of you? Why?

Gideon was first told to tear down the idols and worship God. Later, he gathered several thousand men to fight the enemy (6:34-35). What did God have to say in response to this? (7:2) Why did Gideon have too many men? If you honestly think about it, what, in your own life/circumstances, do you tend to rely on to feel safe, to feel like you're equipped to handle everyday life? How would these things be considered idols?

After 22,000 men who were afraid had gone home (7:3), and thousands more who got down on hands and knees to drink had been sent home (7:6-7), how many men did Gideon have left? What does all this show us about Gideon's, and Israel's, own ability to take on their enemy?

### **Application**

Suppose God visibly appeared to you as He did with Gideon (and several others in Scripture), and said, "Go and do \_\_\_\_\_, and I will be with you. I have sent you." Remember, God had Noah build a giant boat and fill it with animals. He promised Abraham and Sarah a son when they were way past childbearing age. He told Peter he'd live to old age (Jn 21:18), yet Peter was chained and heavily guarded in prison the night before his planned execution (Acts 12:6). Jesus was the promised Messiah, yet He was put to death by a very public crucifixion. What "impossible" task could God give you? Moving to a mission field? Loving and/or forgiving one who has hurt you deeply? Going out and meeting your neighbors? Showing Jesus to a difficult coworker? Write down something(s) that comes to your mind that seems impossible.

Read Matthew 28:18-20. What about Jesus' words sounds familiar to what God told Gideon?

What do you need to do in order to obey Jesus' commands?

Pray. Praise God for His promise to always be with you, and for all the evidence in Scripture and in our lives that proves that promise to be reliable. Ask God to help you get rid of anything in your life that you use as an idol and that you'd feel vulnerable without. Ask Him to help you be obedient to His call and commands.