LESSON 13



GIDEON AND THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

Aim: **To show the children that God called Gideon, a young and unimportant person, to save his people.**

Scripture Reading: **Judges 6:1–23**

Memory Verse: **2 Corinthians 12:9**
"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in [your] weakness."

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Talk to the class about the position and importance of different members in a family. Often a person is important because of the position he or she has. Many people consider the oldest son to be in an important position. In some cultures the oldest people receive the greatest respect.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Everywhere in Israel the situation was very bad. The people had forgotten all Deborah had taught them about God. Now it was some years later and they had been conquered again by a different enemy, the Midianites, who robbed them and made life very hard for them. **Put Judges 6:16 into your own words.**
2. Then the Israelites turned to God and cried out for his help. God reacted by calling and training a leader to save them from their enemies. This young man, Gideon, was threshing some grain (beating the grains from the stems) when God called him. He was doing this inside a winepress instead of out in the open, because he was afraid that his enemies would take his harvest from him (6:11).
3. Suddenly, the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and told him, "You are a strong brave warrior. Go out and save Israel from your enemies, the Midianites" (see 6:12–14).
4. Gideon was surprised. "How can I save Israel? I am nobody. I have no position among my own family, let alone in the eyes of the whole Israel." In a sense Gideon was right. He was indeed one of the least important members of a small and unimportant tribe. The holy messenger replied that he could do it because God would be with him (6:15–16).
5. Gideon wanted to know for certain that the message really was from God, so he went to prepare an offering of food. The Lord had great patience with Gideon and agreed to wait while Gideon prepared the offering (6:17–19).
6. Gideon offered the food to the angel, who touched it with the staff he was carrying. The offering burst into flames! **Show Picture 13.** Then the angel disappeared. Gideon needed no further proof that the message was from God (6:20–24).

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Our Response to the Story

God often chooses those who are unimportant or weak to do his work. When ordinary people act in God's power instead of relying on their own strength, they can do great things. We can see examples in African church leaders:

1. Silivanus Wani earned money as a houseboy to be able to afford to go to primary school. God led him to become Archbishop of the Church of Uganda.
2. Ang'apoza Etsea was an orphan. God led him to become President of the Africa Inland Church of Zaire (CECA).
3. Pastor Peter Mualuko was a stonecutter from a pagan family. God led him to become a missionary to the Turkana of Kenya and the Taposa of the Sudan.

Instil the Memory Verse



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