

Gideon asks the “why?” question

The truthful answer to the “why” question

Israel’s cycle

Gideon’s victory, God’s way

Discussion questions:

1. Through The Story we have discovered that God loves to use surprising people to accomplish his will. As you read about Deborah, Gideon, and Samson in this chapter, how is each of them a surprising choice to be a leader for God?
2. Contrast how God saw Gideon with how Gideon saw himself (Judges 6:11-16, The Story, p.108). How does this breathe hope into our hearts in the moments we feel God could never do great things through us?
3. In the continual cycle that occurs in the time of the Judges, God’s people kept embracing the sins, religion, and behaviors of those who lived in the land before they conquered it. In what ways do Christians today embrace the sin, practices, and culture of our day and end up sinning and feeling distant from God?
4. One of the recurring themes in this chapter of The Story is that a new generation would rise up that did not know God and what he had done for his people in the past. When they forgot, they wandered. This same tragic thing can happen in our generation. What practical things can we do in our homes and in the church to help the next generation know and remember what God has done in the past so they will hold on to him in the future?
5. There seem to be consequences when we refuse to follow God’s way. Why do you think we continue to repeat the same sin patterns even though we know the outcome will not be good?
6. Where would you be today if God had never allowed his discipline to wake you up to the reality of sin and drive you into his arms?
7. How did God strengthen Gideon and help him press through his fears as he faced the mighty armies of Midian? How does God do this same thing today when we feel inadequate and fearful?
8. Have you faced a situation when the odds were against you, and others said, “No way!” but you held God’s hand and pressed on? How did the situation turn out and how was God glorified? What area in your life is God presently trying to get you to the place where you embrace the fact that he is enough?

Homework: Read and meditate on Moses' song found in Deuteronomy 32. Let the message of this song speak to you. You might even want to write it down and put it somewhere you will see it on a regular basis. If you are musical, you might want to set it to music. Let the message of this short song remind you of God's goodness and our human temptation to fall back into the same sins over and over.

For next week, read Chapter 9 of The Story (Ruth 1-4).