

# Gideon, Part 1 — Whiskey & Worship Study Guide

## From Hiding to Trusting God

### Scripture: Judges 6–7:15

Gideon's story begins when Israel is in trouble. The Israelites have turned away from God, and the Midianites have been oppressing them for seven years, destroying their crops and leaving them struggling to survive.

When we meet Gideon, he's hiding while threshing wheat. He's not acting like a mighty warrior. He's trying to get by without being noticed.

Yet God calls him a “**mighty warrior**” and tells him to lead Israel.

Gideon's story reminds us that God often calls us when we feel least qualified. But the challenge isn't simply believing God can use us. It's being willing to trust Him enough to obey.

**The big idea: God doesn't ask us to be fearless or have everything figured out. He asks us to trust Him and take the next step.**

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## 1. God Sees More in You Than You See in Yourself

### Judges 6:11–24

**Key Verses:** Judges 6:12, 14–16

#### Focus:

Gideon is hiding from the Midianites when the angel of the Lord calls him a “mighty man of valor.”

Gideon doesn't see himself that way. He questions why God has allowed Israel to suffer and wonders how he could possibly be the one to rescue them. He comes from a weak clan and considers himself the least in his family.

God's answer isn't a list of Gideon's qualifications. It's a promise:

**“But I will be with you.” — Judges 6:16**

Gideon's confidence was meant to rest in God's presence, not his own ability.

#### Discussion:

- Where in your life do you feel unqualified?
- Do you tend to focus more on your weaknesses or on what God can do through you?
- Have you ever avoided doing the right thing because you didn't feel ready?
- What would change if you trusted God's presence more than your own ability?

#### Takeaway:

**God doesn't need you to feel qualified before you obey Him.**

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## 2. Obedience Often Starts at Home

### Judges 6:25–35

**Key Verses:** Judges 6:25–27

**Focus:**

Before Gideon ever fights the Midianites, God gives him a difficult assignment: tear down his father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole.

Gideon obeys, but he does it at night because he's afraid of his family and the townspeople.

His obedience wasn't fearless. But he did what God asked despite his fear.

Sometimes the first battle God calls us to fight isn't out in the world. It's in our own hearts, homes, habits, and relationships.

**Discussion:**

- Why can it be harder to stand for what's right around family or friends than around strangers?
- Is there an area of your life where your actions don't match what you say you believe?
- What habit, attitude, or priority might need to be torn down before you can move forward?
- How can a man lead his family well without expecting himself or his family to do the right thing?

**Takeaway:**

**Before God uses us publicly, He may ask us to deal with something privately.**

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### 3. Trusting God When You Still Have Questions

**Judges 6:36–40**

**Key Verses:** Judges 6:36–40

**Focus:**

Gideon asks God for signs involving a fleece of wool. He wants reassurance that God will really deliver Israel through him.

It's important to notice that Gideon has already received God's word and seen signs, yet he still struggles with uncertainty.

This passage shows us Gideon's weakness and God's patience. But it isn't a command to test God whenever we're unsure. Scripture consistently calls us to trust God's character and obey His revealed word.

Faith doesn't mean we never have questions. It means we bring those questions to God and continue learning to trust Him.

**Discussion:**

- When you're uncertain, do you tend to pray, seek wise counsel, take action, or put things off?
- What's the difference between honestly asking God for wisdom and refusing to act until you get the certainty you want?
- Has God ever been patient with you while you were struggling to trust Him?
- Where might you already know the right next step, even if you don't know the outcome?

**Takeaway:**

**God is patient with our weakness, but we shouldn't use uncertainty as an excuse to avoid obedience.**

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### 4. God Wants Our Trust, Not Our Strength

**Judges 7:1–15**

**Key Verses:** Judges 7:2, 7:9–10, 7:15

**Focus:**

Gideon gathers 32,000 men to fight Midian. God reduces that number first to 10,000, then to just 300.

Why? God explains that Israel might otherwise boast that its own strength had saved it.

The odds become impossible by human standards. Yet God continues to prepare Gideon, even allowing him to hear an enemy soldier's dream that reassures him of the coming victory.

Notice Gideon's response in verse 15: **he worships God before the battle is won.**

Gideon is learning to trust God's promise before he sees the outcome.

**Discussion:**

- Where are you relying on your own strength, experience, money, or connections instead of trusting God?
- Why do we sometimes want to take credit for victories that we prayed for?
- What does it look like to trust God while still doing your part responsibly?
- Can you worship God before you know how a difficult situation will turn out?

**Takeaway:**

**God's strength isn't limited by our weakness, and His faithfulness doesn't depend on our ability to control the outcome.**

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## Whiskey & Worship Challenge

**1. Where am I hiding?**

What fear or insecurity is keeping me from doing what I believe is right?

**2. What needs to be torn down?**

Is there a habit, attitude, or priority in my life that is pulling me away from God?

**3. Where am I waiting for certainty?**

Am I seeking God's wisdom, or using my questions to delay obedience?

**4. Where do I need to trust God?**

What situation am I trying to control because I'm afraid of what might happen?

**Closing Thought**

Gideon starts out hiding, questioning, and doubting. He doesn't suddenly become a fearless man. God works with him patiently, calling him forward one step at a time.

That matters because many of us know what it's like to feel inadequate. We may wonder whether we're good enough husbands, fathers, friends, leaders, or followers of Christ.

Gideon's story doesn't promise that God will make every challenge easy or give us the outcome we want. It reminds us that we can obey God even when we're afraid, and that His strength is greater than ours.

**You don't have to have it all figured out. You do have to be willing to take the next faithful step.**

**Final Question**

**What is one step of obedience you've been putting off because of fear, insecurity, or uncertainty?**

**Prayer Focus:** Ask God for humility to recognize your weaknesses, courage to do what's right, wisdom when you have questions, and faith to trust Him with the outcome.