

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*God Sends Help:  
A Study from Judges*

## Lesson 7: God Is Gideon's Peace

### Bible Text

Judges 6:22-31, 33-34

### Memory Verse

"The Lord said to him, 'Peace be with you. Do not be afraid. You will not die.'" (Judges 6:23)

### Word List

**in a nutshell:** to state very briefly, to make a long story short

Many of us know how hard it is to live for God in a family of unbelievers. Some of us are the only ones in the family who know the one true God. Maybe we are afraid that our family members will leave this earth before they know Him. Just as God helped Gideon, He helps us to be a witness in our family and in the world. He makes us strong in the Lord. He is our peace. He is our power. He is the only true God. He tells us how to draw our family and our community closer to God by the way we live even when we are afraid.

### God Is Peace (Judges 6:22-24)

22 So Gideon knew that he was the angel of the Lord. And he said, "I am afraid, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face."

23 The Lord said to him, "Peace be with you. Do not be afraid. You will not die."

24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord. He gave it the name, The Lord is Peace. It is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites to this day.

Gideon learned the most important lesson of his life when the Lord spoke to him. He was afraid to see the Lord face to face. The Lord's answer to Gideon is the Good News **in a nutshell**. Where God is, there is peace. There is nothing to fear. And God's promise to those who believe in His Son is life that lasts forever. We do not need to fear death because of what Jesus did for us. I have heard people say, "Before I met Jesus, I had no peace. Now I have peace." They have peace because Jesus Himself is our peace (Ephesians 2:14).

Having no troubles is not the reason for our peace. We have peace because God is with us. Gideon was still hiding from his enemies. He was still unimportant to his family. But he had peace because God was with him. He was the first person to give God the name "The Lord Is Peace."

**God Is God and There Is No Other  
(Judges 6:25-27)**

**25 That same night the Lord said to him, “Take your father’s bull and a second bull seven years old. Use them to pull down the altar of Baal which belongs to your father. And cut down the tree of the false goddess Asherah that is beside it.**

**26 Build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of this strong place. Set the stones in the right way. Then take a second bull and give a burnt gift. Use the wood of the tree of the false goddess Asherah which you cut down.”**

**27 Gideon took ten of his servants and did what the Lord had told him to do. But he was too afraid of those of his father’s house and the men of the city to do it during the day. So he did it during the night.**

Gideon had to change his family before he could hope to change his nation. Gideon knew enough about God to be afraid to meet Him face to face. But his family lived among people who worshiped idols. They believed that Asherah was the mother of many gods. They thought that Baal was her most powerful son.

God had warned His people to stay away from idol worship. These things we make for ourselves have no power to bless us. But they do pull us away from God.

Gideon’s father tried to worship both God and these idols. The men of the city came to worship the idols Gideon’s father owned. Gideon’s father did not lead his family and his neighbors to God. Instead, he followed the sin of unbelief.

God told Gideon to go tear down his father’s idols then carefully build an altar to God where they had stood. Gideon was afraid of his father and the men of the city. So he did God’s work at night. He took ten men to help him. God told him which animals to take with him. God knows everything about His creation. And he knew which bulls He wanted Gideon to use. He even knew their ages.

**God Has Power to Change Us  
(Judges 6:28-31)**

**28 When the men of the city got up early in the morning, they saw that the altar of Baal was torn down. They saw that the false goddess Asherah which was beside it was cut down. And the second bull was given on the altar which had been built.**

**29 The men said to one another, “Who did this?” After they had looked around and asked, they were told, “Gideon the son of Joash did this thing.”**

**30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, “Bring out your son, so he may die. For he has torn down the altar of Baal. And he has cut**

down our goddess Asherah which was beside it.”

**31 But Joash said to all who were gathered against him, “Will you fight for Baal? Will you save him? Whoever will fight for him will be put to death this morning. If he is a god, let him fight for himself because someone has torn down his altar.”**

When morning came, the people saw that Gideon had torn down Baal and burned the Asherah pole. They saw God’s altar sitting on the ruined Baal. They must have noticed how carefully God’s altar was built. They saw that Gideon had burned a gift to God in the night.

Gideon’s father was changed by God. He realized that Baal is powerless. He said, “If (Baal) is a god, let him fight for himself.” He was willing to defend his son. This must

have made the people think about it, too.

What had Baal ever done for them? He had not protected them from their enemies. He had not been able to protect himself.

### **God Sends His Spirit (Judges 6:33-34)**

**33 Then all the Midianites and Amalekites and people of the east gathered together. They crossed the Jordan and set up their tents in the valley of Jezreel.**

**34 But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon. He blew a horn and called together the Abiezerites to follow him.**

When we stand up for God, we can expect the enemy to fight back. Jesus said the world hates us because we belong to Him. We cannot expect the sinful world to love us.

But when the Spirit comes on us, we have power. We are not brave because of who we are or what we have done. We are brave because of who God is and what He has done.

Suddenly, in the power of God’s Spirit, Gideon was changed. The people of Midian joined with two more armies. They gathered to fight against Israel. They thought Israel was weak. But when Gideon called, people from four tribes came together ready to fight for Israel and for God.

### **Things to Think About**

1. How have you been a witness to your family?
2. What are some difficult things God has asked you to do? How have you made a stand against sin?
3. Have you asked the Holy Spirit to fill your life with His power? How have you experienced God’s peace in your life?
4. What seems impossible to you? Does your family need God’s touch? Do you need to see yourself as God sees you?

## Things to Remember

The idols of this world are powerless. God alone is God. He has all power. He has the right to rule all of heaven and everything that happens on this earth. He knows all the details. Nothing escapes His notice. And while we may feel alone, God is moving in the hearts of other believers around the world. Together we are part of God's mighty army. Take a stand against the sin of this world. Stand up for what is right even if the world hates you. Be brave enough to do exactly what God says. See how God changes you and your family.

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