

**BIG IDEA FOR SERIES:**

Hurt people, hurt people.

Whole people, help people.



**Judges 6:1-2, 11-15; 7:2-7, 15-18 (NIV)**

**6** Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. <sup>2</sup> Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds.

<sup>11</sup> The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup> When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”

<sup>13</sup> “But sir,” Gideon replied, “if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian.”

<sup>14</sup> The LORD turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

<sup>15</sup> “But Lord,” Gideon asked, “how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

**7** <sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, <sup>3</sup> announce now to the people, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

<sup>4</sup> But the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

<sup>5</sup> So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink.” <sup>6</sup> Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place.”

<sup>15</sup> When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, “Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands.” <sup>16</sup> Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.

<sup>17</sup> “Watch me,” he told them. “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. <sup>18</sup> When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the LORD and for Gideon.’ ”

### **Purpose Wrongly and Rightly Applied**



\_\_\_\_\_ comparison



**stay in your** \_\_\_\_\_  
(cf., John 21:19-22)



\_\_\_\_\_ of success



**move from** \_\_\_\_\_-sufficiency to \_\_\_\_\_-sufficiency  
(cf., 1 Corinthians 1:26-29)



\_\_\_\_\_ reliance



**be most worried in your** \_\_\_\_\_ of strength,  
**not** \_\_\_\_\_ of weakness  
(cf., 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)