

The Teaching Outline

SELF-DOUBTER

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with learners. Encourage learners to take notes on their worksheets as you teach. The underlined words in the Teaching Outline correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.

Introduction: We all want to feel important; we all want to be more than capable of helping another person in need. But most of the time we feel small, limited, not very smart, and less than capable of helping even ourselves. We feel ordinary. Sometimes it takes an act of God to shake us out of our insecurity and doubt and put us in the game.

1. **God reminds us of His presence when we are feeling alone and insecure (Judg. 6:11–16).**
 - Although Gideon was working to harvest crops, God saw him as a “mighty warrior” (vv. 11–12).
 - Gideon felt insignificant and could not see how God could use him (vv. 13–15).
 - Because **People are God’s Treasure**, God promised deliverance (v. 16).

Interactive Questions: How do feelings impact our assurance of God’s presence? What keeps us from seeing God’s activity in our lives? What are the negative implications of feeling God’s absence?

2. **God protects us from self-sufficiency and false security by reminding us that He is the One who works in and through us to accomplish His will (Judg. 7:1–3).**
 - Gideon—renamed “Jerub-Baal”—set up camp in preparation for fighting the Midianites (v. 1).
 - God determined to trim down the Israelite army to prevent them from claiming the victory as their own (v. 2).
 - When given the opportunity over two-thirds of the men abandoned Gideon, shaking in fear (v. 3).

Illustration: In the film *Finding Nemo*, Nemo, a small fish who could barely swim due to a challenged fin, became Sharkbait “the brave” when he realized that he could accomplish something great. Likewise, Gideon the hacker became Jerub-Baal, “the one for Baal to sue.” Gideon was being transformed from insecure and doubtful to secure and hopeful.

3. **God qualifies people according to His specific plans to accomplish things far greater than themselves (Judg. 7:4–8).**
 - God tested the men based on their posture when drinking water; those who knelt were more vulnerable to attack than those who brought water to their mouths (vv. 4–6).
 - God separated the useful men from the useless men (v. 7)
 - Gideon faithfully followed God’s plan with an army that shrank from 32,000 to 300 men (v. 8).

Illustration: The classic sports film, *Hoosiers*, documents the true story of the 1954 Milan Indians’ quest for the Indiana state basketball championship. The team represented a high school with 161 students (75 of which were boys). Although the Indians faced much larger schools they were eventually victorious. In 1999, *Sports Illustrated* recognized the team as one of the top 20 teams of the century. These young men prevailed because of their trust in their coach. Gideon had a greater challenge. His victory depended on placing his faith in God’s plan.

Conclusion: Gideon was insecure and full of doubt. However, God chose him—flawed as he was—and developed him into a mighty warrior whose trust in God and His ability gave him the strength to accomplish great things for God against all odds.