WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Prerequisites to be Used by God

Study Guide

New Testament Studies

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Prerequisites to be Used by God - 1

October 26, 2003

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-24 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Godly Character as Prerequisite for Service

The foundational requirement for being used by God is a life of virtue and integrity, not merely talent or position.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'What is the very first prerequisite? I want you to note that Gideon was a man of character.'

The Nature of True Character

Character is defined by private conduct, resilience under testing, and long-term development rather than instant acquisition.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Character is what a man is in the dark... the test of your character is what it takes to stop you.'

Diligence in Work

God uses those who are hard workers, as seen in Gideon's manual threshing and the biblical pictures of ministry as labor.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'When God uses a man, He expects a man to be a hard worker.'

Honesty and Faithfulness in Small Things

Integrity in finances and daily dealings is essential; unfaithfulness in little disqualifies from greater spiritual trust.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Luke 16:11, 'If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?'

Perseverance Under Oppression

Gideon's seven-year consistency under Midianite oppression demonstrates that dependability is a mark of character.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'For seven long years, Gideon had been faithfully discharging his duties under the severest oppression.'

Faith as the Victory Over the World

Gideon's obedience amid national apostasy shows that faith, not circumstances, enables steadfastness and pleases God.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes 1 John 5:4, 'This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.'

God's Sovereign Choice in Calling

God calls and uses whom He wills, and only those He sends will truly profit His people.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God calls whomsoever he pleases... God will sovereignly raise up a man to save His people.'

Key Arguments

Character is the indispensable prerequisite for being used by God.

Weaver argues that while God may use someone on credit initially, long-term usefulness depends on developed character.

Lecture support: He states, 'God may use you on credit the first years of your life. After that, he will use you on character.'

True character is revealed in private and under pressure.

Character is not public persona but what one does when alone and what it takes to make one quit.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Character is what a man is in the dark... the test of your character is what it takes to stop you.'

Hard work is a non-negotiable aspect of godly character.

Gideon's manual threshing and the biblical metaphors for ministry all emphasize diligent labor.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The ministry is no place for a lazy man... God requires that we be diligent.'

Honesty in financial and practical matters is foundational for spiritual trust.

Using Luke 16:11, Weaver contends that unfaithfulness in money disqualifies one from receiving true spiritual riches.

Lecture support: He asks, 'If I cannot be faithful in that which belongs to another man, who's going to give me that which is my own?'

Wisdom and prudence are biblical character traits.

Gideon's hiding of wheat exemplifies the prudent man who foresees evil and hides himself, as taught in Proverbs.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Proverbs 22:3, 'A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself.'

Consistency under prolonged hardship proves dependability.

Gideon's seven years of faithful labor under oppression show that the greatest ability is dependability.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Dr. Bob Jones Sr., 'The greatest ability is dependability.'

Faith, not circumstances, sustains character and overcomes the world.

Gideon's faith in God's eventual reward kept him obedient despite national apostasy and personal poverty.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'What kept Gideon faithful for seven years? He knew that God was going to reward him sooner or later.'

God's sovereign call is the ultimate factor in being used.

Despite human character, God alone chooses whom He will use, and those not sent by Him will not profit the people.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Jeremiah 23:32, 'I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all.'

Scripture References

Judges 6:11-12

Introduction of Gideon threshing wheat and the angel calling him a mighty man of valor.

Judges 6:13-16

Gideon's objection about his family's poverty and God's promise of presence.

Judges 6:17-24

Gideon's request for a sign and the consuming fire; Gideon builds an altar.

Judges 6:25-26

God's command to tear down Baal's altar and build an altar to the Lord.

Romans 9:23

Desire to be vessels of mercy and honor.

2 Timothy 2:20-21

Vessels of honor and dishonor; purging oneself to be meet for the master's use.

1 Thessalonians 4:4

Possessing one's vessel in sanctification and honor.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Cleansing from filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness.

2 Chronicles 16:9

God's eyes run to and fro to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect.

Ruth 2:17

Ruth beating out barley with a stick, indicating poverty and hard manual labor.

2 Timothy 2:1-15

Eight pictures of ministry: teacher, soldier, athlete, farmer, student, preacher, witness, workman.

Ephesians 4:28

Let him that stole steal no more, but labor with his hands to have to give.

1 Timothy 5:8

If any provide not for his own, he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel.

Luke 16:11-12

Faithfulness in unrighteous mammon and that which is another's as prerequisite for true riches.

Deuteronomy 25:13-16

Prohibition of diverse weights and measures; dishonest dealing is an abomination.

Judges 6:3-6

Midianite oppression destroying Israel's produce and impoverishing them.

Proverbs 22:3; 27:12

A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

Proverbs 28:12, 28

When the wicked rise, men hide themselves.

Galatians 6:9

Be not weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

Jeremiah 12:5

If you have run with footmen and they wearied you, how will you contend with horses?

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that 'character is what a man is in the dark'? How can we cultivate private integrity?

Consider: Weaver defines character as private conduct, not public persona.

2. What are some things that easily stop us from serving God, and how can we develop greater resilience?

Consider: The test of character is what it takes to stop you; many are stopped by small offenses.

3. In what areas of life is God calling you to be more diligent and hardworking for His kingdom?

Consider: Gideon was a hard worker, and ministry is compared to a soldier, athlete, and farmer.

4. How does faithfulness in financial and practical matters relate to spiritual trust and usefulness?

Consider: Weaver uses Luke 16:11 to connect honesty with money to receiving true riches.

5. When have you been tempted to give up under prolonged difficulty, and what helped you persevere?

Consider: Gideon remained faithful for seven years under severe oppression.

6. How can we keep our eyes on God's Word rather than circumstances to avoid discouragement?

Consider: Weaver says faith looks only at the Word of God, not situations or feelings.

7. What does it mean that God sovereignly calls whom He pleases, and how should that affect our ambition for ministry?

Consider: God called Gideon; we should be available but recognize God's prerogative.

8. What practical steps can you take to build godly character over the long term?

Consider: Character is built by applying God's Word to life progressively.

Applications

Develop Private Integrity

Cultivate character by being the same person in private as in public, doing right even when no one is watching.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Character is what a man is in the dark... what we are alone before God.'

Build Resilience Against Discouragement

Identify what easily stops you from serving God and develop perseverance through faith in God's sovereignty.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'The test of your character is what it takes to stop you.'

Be Diligent in All Work

Approach every task, especially spiritual service, with hard work and dedication, avoiding laziness.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The ministry is no place for a lazy man... God requires that we be diligent.'

Practice Honesty in Small Matters

Be scrupulously honest in finances and daily dealings, knowing that faithfulness in little leads to greater trust.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Luke 16:11 and says, 'If I cannot be faithful in that which is least, who's going to commit that to us which is the greatest?'

Exercise Prudence and Wisdom

Avoid unnecessary danger and do not broadcast personal business; be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Don't tell everybody your business... Gideon was exercising a biblical attitude.'

Remain Faithful Under Pressure

Stay consistent in duty regardless of circumstances, trusting that in due season you will reap if you do not faint.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Gideon was consistent and dedicated... The greatest ability is dependability.'

Live by Faith, Not by Sight

Keep your eyes on God's Word and promises rather than on oppressive circumstances to overcome discouragement.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Faith does not look at circumstances... Faith only looks at the Word of God.'

Apply God's Word to Build Character

Regularly study Scripture and intentionally conform your life to it, progressively developing godly character.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'As we apply that word to our lives... we begin to build a godly character.'

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Prerequisites to be Used by God - 2

November 02, 2003

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 25-45 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Character as a Prerequisite for Service

God uses men of character, developed over a lifetime through habits and attitudes aligned with Scripture.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'God may use us on credit the first years of our life. After that, he will use us on character.'

Understanding and Facing Reality

A man used by God must see things clearly, without sugarcoating, and honestly assess the spiritual condition of himself and his people.

Lecture support: Gideon asked, 'If the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us?' showing he faced reality.

Divine Calling and Commission

True servants of God are divinely called and sent, not self-appointed or hired by men. They represent God and His interests.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Pastors are not employees of a church... They are to be the servants of God. God calls them and God sent them.'

The Necessity of God's Presence

Without God's presence, all human effort is futile. Success comes only through reliance on God's Spirit and power.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Zechariah 4:6 and the hymn 'Brethren, We Have Met to Worship' to emphasize dependence on God.

Repentance and Remembrance

Individuals and nations must remember their spiritual heritage, repent of sin, and recall God's mighty works to avoid judgment.

Lecture support: Weaver references Revelation 2:5 and Psalm 44 to call for remembrance and repentance.

God Uses the Weak to Display His Glory

God chooses the foolish, weak, and despised to accomplish His purposes so that no human may boast in His presence.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 and Gideon's reduction to 300 men.

Key Arguments

God uses men, not institutions

God works through individuals of character, not committees or corporations.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God uses men. He does not use committees. He does not use corporations.'

Character is built over time

Character cannot be developed instantly; it is the habit and disposition of a lifetime.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Character cannot be developed on the spur of a moment. It is the habit, it is the attitude, it is the disposition of a lifetime.'

Honest assessment is necessary for repentance

Unless we are honest about our sin and condition, we will never repent individually or nationally.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Unless we are honest with ourselves, and unless we're honest about the state of our nation, we will never repent individually or nationally.'

The angel of the Lord is Christ

The angel of the Lord in Judges 6 is a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ, evidenced by receiving worship and being called Yahweh.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'This is what is known in the Bible as a Christophany... a pre-incarnate appearing of Christ.'

Pastors must be divinely sent

A true preacher is called and sent by God, not merely hired by a church, and is accountable to God.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Pastors are not employees of a church... They are to be the servants of God. God calls them and God sent them.'

God's presence is the source of strength

Gideon's might was the promised presence of God, not his own ability.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Gideon's might is nothing less than the promised presence of God.'

Sin separates from God's power

The problem is not God's inability but human sin that separates us from His deliverance.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Isaiah 59:1-2: 'Your iniquities have separated between you and your God.'

God accomplishes much through few

God does not need a multitude; He can deliver through one committed person or a small number.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'It does not take a multitude to accomplish the will and the purpose of God. It takes one man who is sent by God.'

Scripture References

Judges 6:11-24

The primary text: the angel of the Lord appears to Gideon, commissions him, and receives worship.

2 Chronicles 16:9

God looks for individuals whose hearts are perfect toward Him.

Hebrews 11

God uses men named one after another.

John 1:14

The Word was made flesh, referring to the incarnation.

1 Timothy 3:16

God was manifest in the flesh.

Philippians 2:6-7

Christ took upon Himself the form of a man.

Hebrews 3:1

Jesus is called the Apostle (sent one) and High Priest.

Revelation 19:10

John is forbidden to worship an angel; only God receives worship.

Revelation 22:8-9

Again, John is told not to worship an angel but God alone.

Judges 6:1-6

Israel did evil, and God delivered them to Midianites for seven years.

Revelation 2:5

The church at Ephesus is told to remember, repent, and do the first works or have their candlestick removed.

Psalm 44:1-3

Recalling the mighty works God did in the past.

Genesis 14:18

Melchizedek met Abraham with bread and wine, symbolizing kingship.

Revelation 1:6

Christ has made us kings and priests unto God.

Luke 3:16-17

Christ will baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire, separating wheat from chaff.

2 Samuel 24:16-25

David buys the threshingfloor of Araunah, where the temple was later built, symbolizing judgment and mercy.

1 Peter 4:17

Judgment must begin at the house of God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Pastors are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech by them.

Exodus 33:12-15

Moses insisted on God's presence going with them.

Isaiah 59:1-8

God's hand is not shortened, but sins have separated the people from Him.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be a man or woman of character, and how can we develop such character in our daily lives?

Consider: Weaver emphasized that character is built over a lifetime through habits and attitudes.

2. In what areas of our personal lives, families, or nation are we tempted to sugarcoat reality instead of facing it honestly?

Consider: Gideon honestly assessed Israel's condition; we are called to do the same.

3. How can we discern whether someone is truly called and sent by God versus self-appointed or hired by men?

Consider: Weaver discussed the importance of divine commission for pastors and leaders.

4. What does it look like to rely on God's presence rather than our own strength in our daily tasks and ministries?

Consider: Gideon's might was the promised presence of God.

5. Why does God often choose the weak and foolish to accomplish His purposes, and how should that affect our view of ourselves?

Consider: Weaver cited 1 Corinthians 1 to show God's pattern of using the weak.

6. What are some practical steps we can take to remember, repent, and recall God's works as individuals and as a church?

Consider: Weaver applied Revelation 2:5 and Psalm 44 to the need for remembrance and repentance.

7. How does the concept of threshing as judgment apply to the church today, and what does it mean for judgment to begin at the house of God?

Consider: Weaver connected threshing to God's winnowing process in 1 Peter 4:17.

8. In what ways might we be hindering God's work by trying to accomplish it without His presence and power?

Consider: Weaver stressed that all is vain without the Spirit.

Applications

Develop godly character daily

Cultivate habits of hard work, honesty, wisdom, perseverance, and faith through consistent application of Scripture.

Lecture support: Weaver said, 'You and I should be constantly and continually developing a biblical character as we read and study and apply the Word of God to our lives.'

Face reality honestly

Avoid sugarcoating problems; honestly assess personal, familial, and national sins to enable repentance.

Lecture support: Gideon's question, 'If the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us?' models honest assessment.

Seek God's calling and presence

Ensure that your service is rooted in a divine call and rely on God's presence rather than human ability.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasized, 'If God's not with us, it doesn't matter what we do.'

Repent and remember God's works

Regularly recall God's past deliverances and repent of sins to avoid judgment and experience revival.

Lecture support: Weaver urged, 'Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent.'

Embrace weakness for God's glory

Accept your limitations and inadequacies, knowing God uses the weak to display His power and prevent human boasting.

Lecture support: Weaver cited 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 and Gideon's reduction to 300 men.

Be willing to be the one God uses

Offer yourself to God as an individual, committed to His rules and purposes, even if you feel insignificant.

Lecture support: Weaver challenged, 'Are you willing to be that one? To be a man of character, of understanding, and say, Here, my Lord, send me.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 3

Prerequisites to be Used by God - 3

November 09, 2003

Read Chapter 3 in the companion book, pages 47-65 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Humility as a Prerequisite for Being Used by God

God uses humble men who recognize their own nothingness and depend entirely on Him.

Lecture support: Gideon said, 'My family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house' (Judges 6:15). God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).

Pride as a Root Sin

Pride is the foundation of many other sins and makes faith impossible, leading to shame, contention, and destruction.

Lecture support: Proverbs 11:2: 'When pride cometh, then cometh shame.' John 5:44: 'How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another?'

God's Opposition to the Proud

God actively resists and fights against the proud, and pride is an abomination to Him.

Lecture support: Proverbs 6:16-17 lists a proud look first among things God hates. James 4:6: 'God resisteth the proud.'

True Humility is Dependence on God

Humility is recognizing that all we are and have comes from God's grace, not from ourselves.

Lecture support: 1 Corinthians 15:10: 'By the grace of God I am what I am.' 1 Corinthians 4:7: 'What hast thou that thou didst not receive?'

Humility Attracts God's Presence and Blessing

God dwells with the humble and contrite, and humility is rewarded with His presence and grace.

Lecture support: Isaiah 57:15: God dwells 'with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit.' Gideon received the promise 'Surely I will be with thee' (Judges 6:16).

Humility Averts Judgment and Brings Healing

Humility is essential for national healing and can ward off God's immediate judgment.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 7:14: 'If my people... shall humble themselves... then will I hear from heaven.' 2 Chronicles 12:6-7: 'They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them.'

Key Arguments

Gideon's humility was a modest assessment of his own worth and abilities.

Gideon did not think highly of himself but acknowledged his family's poverty and his own low status, demonstrating a sober self-assessment.

Lecture support: Judges 6:15: 'Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.'

Pride makes true faith impossible because it seeks honor from men rather than God.

Jesus taught that those who seek honor from one another cannot truly believe in God.

Lecture support: John 5:44: 'How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?'

God actively resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

The Greek word for 'resisteth' means to fight against; God contends with the proud, making it dangerous to be proud.

Lecture support: James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5 both state 'God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.'

True humility is not denying one's gifts but acknowledging they come from God.

Humility is a right estimate of oneself, recognizing that every ability and gift is received from God.

Lecture support: 1 Corinthians 4:7: 'What hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory?'

Humility is the place of entire dependence on God, allowing God to be all.

Andrew Murray's quote emphasizes that humility is the root of all virtue because it assumes the right attitude before God.

Lecture support: Quote: 'Humility is the place of entire dependence on God... it assumes the right attitude before God and allows God to do all.'

Humility is necessary for national healing and to avert God's judgment.

2 Chronicles 7:14 requires humility as the first step for healing, and multiple Old Testament examples show humility warding off judgment.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 12:6-7: 'They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them.'

Scripture References

Judges 6:11-16

The angel of the Lord calls Gideon, who responds with humility about his family and status.

Judges 6:14-15

Gideon expresses his inadequacy: 'My family is poor... and I am the least in my father's house.'

Exodus 3:11

Moses asks, 'Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh?' showing a similar humble response to God's call.

Exodus 4:10

Moses protests his lack of eloquence, saying he is slow of speech.

Romans 12:3

Paul instructs believers not to think of themselves more highly than they ought, but to think soberly.

Ephesians 4:1-2

Believers are to walk with all lowliness and meekness.

Philippians 2:3

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind esteem others better than yourselves.

Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, arrogancy, and the evil way.

John 5:44

Jesus asks how they can believe who receive honor from one another and not from God.

Proverbs 11:2

When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

Proverbs 13:10

Only by pride cometh contention.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 6:16-17

Six things the Lord hates, the first being a proud look.

Proverbs 16:5

Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord.

James 4:6

God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1 Peter 5:5

Be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Daniel 4:27-37

Nebuchadnezzar is humbled by God, learning that those who walk in pride He is able to abase.

Luke 14:11

Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Luke 18:14

Every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

1 Corinthians 15:10

By the grace of God I am what I am… I laboured more abundantly… yet not I, but the grace of God.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Gideon's response to God's call demonstrate humility, and what can we learn from it for our own lives?

Consider: Gideon said, 'My family is poor... and I am the least in my father's house' (Judges 6:15).

2. In what ways does pride make faith impossible, according to John 5:44?

Consider: Jesus asked how they could believe while seeking honor from one another.

3. Why does God resist the proud, and what does it mean for God to 'resist' someone?

Consider: James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5 say God resists the proud; the Greek word means to fight against.

4. How does 1 Corinthians 4:7 challenge our tendency to take credit for our abilities or achievements?

Consider: Paul asks, 'What do you have that you did not receive?'

5. What does it mean to have a 'contrite and humble spirit' as described in Isaiah 57:15, and how can we cultivate it?

Consider: God dwells with the humble and contrite.

6. How did Moses' forty years in the desert prepare him for God's service, and what does that teach us about God's humbling process?

Consider: Moses learned meekness and dependence on God during his time as a shepherd.

7. Why is humility the first requirement for national healing according to 2 Chronicles 7:14?

Consider: God requires His people to humble themselves before He will heal their land.

8. How can we practically serve the Lord 'with all humility of mind' in our daily lives and ministries?

Consider: Acts 20:19 describes Paul's service with humility.

Applications

Cultivate a sober self-assessment

Regularly evaluate your gifts and abilities with honesty, acknowledging that they come from God and not from yourself.

Lecture support: Romans 12:3: 'not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly.'

Reject pride in all its forms

Recognize pride as a root sin and actively fight against it, knowing that God resists the proud.

Lecture support: Proverbs 8:13: 'The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy.'

Depend entirely on God

In every task, rely on God's strength and grace rather than your own abilities, giving Him all the glory.

Lecture support: 1 Corinthians 15:10: 'Yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.'

Humble yourself to avert judgment

When convicted of sin, humble yourself before God to seek His mercy and avoid His discipline.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 12:6-7: 'They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them.'

Serve with humility

Approach all service to God with a lowly mindset, esteeming others better than yourself.

Lecture support: Acts 20:19: 'Serving the Lord with all humility of mind.'

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 4

Prerequisites to be Used by God - 4

November 16, 2003

Read Chapter 4 in the companion book, pages 67-86 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Sacrificial Giving

True worship involves sacrificial giving, as demonstrated by Gideon's generous offering despite his poverty.

Lecture support: Gideon prepared an ephah of flour and a kid, a costly meal, to honor the Lord (Judges 6:19).

Worship in Spirit and Truth

Acceptable worship requires a proper understanding of God's holiness and a heart attitude of reverence.

Lecture support: Gideon's fear and awe after seeing the angel reflect a biblical concept of God's majesty (Judges 6:22-23).

Immediate Obedience

God expects prompt action when He commands; Gideon obeyed the same night he received instruction.

Lecture support: Judges 6:25 states, 'it came to pass the same night, that the Lord said unto him,' and Gideon acted.

Removal of Idolatry

Before God can use someone, they must remove all false gods and idols from their lives and homes.

Lecture support: God commanded Gideon to tear down the altar of Baal and the Asherah pole (Judges 6:25).

Public Confession of Faith

Obedience to God is a public declaration that one is on God's side, rejecting syncretism.

Lecture support: Gideon's actions, though done at night, demonstrated his allegiance to Jehovah over Baal.

God’s Use of a Minority

God often works through a faithful few rather than the majority, as seen with Gideon’s 300 men.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'God has never used a majority anyhow. He's always used a minority.'

Key Arguments

Sacrificial giving is a mark of true worship

Gideon’s offering, though costly, demonstrated his heart for God; the poor often give more sacrificially than the rich.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts the widow’s mite (Mark 12:41-44) and the Macedonian churches (2 Corinthians 8:1-5) with the rich who give from abundance.

A proper view of God’s holiness leads to reverent worship

Gideon’s fear of death upon seeing the angel reflects a biblical understanding of God’s majesty, unlike modern flippancy.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Isaiah 6:5 and Revelation 1:17 as examples of awe before God’s holiness.

Obedience must be immediate and complete

Gideon’s prompt action the same night shows that God’s work requires precedence and urgency.

Lecture support: Weaver references Luke 2:49 ('I must be about my Father's business') to emphasize immediate obedience.

Personal reformation precedes public ministry

God required Gideon to first remove idols from his own family before delivering Israel, illustrating that one must set their own house in order.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Peter 3:7 and 1 Timothy 3 to show that hindered prayers and leadership qualifications depend on a well-ordered home.

Syncretism is incompatible with true worship

Baal and Jehovah cannot coexist; God demands exclusive allegiance and the destruction of all false gods.

Lecture support: Weaver references Isaiah 42:8 and 1 Kings 18:21 to argue that God is intolerant of rivals.

Obedience to God’s word guarantees His presence and success

When we act on God’s authority, we are bound to succeed because His word carries His power.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'When we act upon the Word of God... we are bound to succeed and we are always bound to have His blessings and His presence.'

Scripture References

Judges 6:11-27

The primary passage studied, detailing Gideon’s call, offering, and destruction of Baal’s altar.

Hebrews 11

Cited as confirmation that God uses men, not committees or corporations.

2 Chronicles 16:9

God searches for men whose hearts are right toward Him, as He found in Gideon.

Romans 12:3

We are to think soberly about our gifts, not more highly than we ought, as Gideon did.

Numbers 12:3

Moses was the meekest man on earth, illustrating true humility as disciplined strength under God.

Exodus 16:16, 36

Defines an omer as one-tenth of an ephah, showing the large quantity of flour Gideon offered.

Mark 12:41-44

The widow’s mite illustrates that sacrificial giving is measured by what one has, not the amount.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

The Macedonian churches gave out of deep poverty, exemplifying sacrificial liberality.

Leviticus 7:15-34

The elements of Gideon’s offering correspond to a peace offering under Mosaic law.

Exodus 20:25

God commanded that altars of stone not be built with tools, which Gideon observed by using an unhewn rock.

Isaiah 6:1-5

Isaiah's vision of God's holiness caused him to cry out in fear, similar to Gideon's reaction.

Revelation 1:17

John fell as dead when he saw the glorified Christ, showing the proper response to God's majesty.

Numbers 25:12

God gave Phinehas a covenant of peace, just as He gave Gideon peace.

Genesis 22:14

Abraham called the place Jehovah-jireh after God provided a ram, paralleling Gideon's naming of the altar.

Exodus 17:15

Moses built an altar and called it Jehovah-nissi, another example of naming altars after divine revelation.

Psalm 50:23

Offering praise glorifies God, indicating that a worshipful attitude can be maintained continually.

John 1:23

John the Baptist's ministry was to make straight the way of the Lord, similar to Gideon's reforming action.

Luke 2:49

Jesus said He must be about His Father's business, illustrating the urgency of God's work.

Deuteronomy 16:21

The command not to plant a grove (Asherah) near God's altar shows the prohibition of idolatry.

1 Kings 15:13; 16:33; 2 Kings 21:7

Examples of kings who made or removed Asherah poles, illustrating the ongoing struggle with idolatry.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does Gideon's sacrificial offering challenge our own giving, especially when we feel we have little to give?

Consider: Gideon gave an ephah of flour and a kid despite his poverty (Judges 6:19).

2. How does a proper understanding of God's holiness affect our worship and daily lives?

Consider: Gideon feared death when he realized he had seen the angel of the Lord (Judges 6:22-23).

3. What are some modern-day 'altars of Baal' or 'Asherah poles' that Christians might need to tear down in their own lives?

Consider: God commanded Gideon to destroy his father's idols before delivering Israel (Judges 6:25).

4. Why is immediate obedience important, and what hinders us from obeying God promptly?

Consider: Gideon acted the same night God spoke to him (Judges 6:25).

5. How can we cultivate a worshipful attitude that goes beyond Sunday services?

Consider: Weaver stated that a worshipful attitude may be constantly maintained, citing Psalm 50:23.

6. What does it mean to be 'on God's side' publicly, and what might that cost us?

Consider: Gideon's actions, though done at night, were a public confession against Baal worship.

7. How should we respond if God calls us to a ministry that seems to bear little visible fruit, like Isaiah's?

Consider: Isaiah's ministry was one of condemnation, yet he was still used by God (Isaiah 6:8-11).

Applications

Examine your giving for sacrificial worship

Evaluate whether your giving to God reflects a heart of worship and sacrifice, not just convenience.

Lecture support: Gideon gave a costly meal from his poverty; the widow gave all she had (Mark 12:44).

Cultivate a reverent fear of God

Study God's attributes to develop a proper awe and reverence that transforms your worship.

Lecture support: Gideon and Isaiah both responded with fear when confronted with God's holiness.

Remove idols from your life and home

Identify and eliminate anything that competes with God's exclusive place in your heart and family.

Lecture support: God commanded Gideon to tear down Baal's altar and the Asherah pole before using him.

Obey God's commands immediately

When you sense God's leading through His Word, act promptly without delay.

Lecture support: Gideon obeyed the same night he received instruction (Judges 6:25).

Set your own house in order first

Before seeking to minister to others, ensure your family relationships and home life honor God.

Lecture support: Weaver cited 1 Peter 3:7 and 1 Timothy 3 about the necessity of a well-ordered home.

Publicly align yourself with God

Let your obedience be a clear testimony that you are on God's side, rejecting syncretism.

Lecture support: Gideon's destruction of idols was a public act of allegiance to Jehovah.

Surrender to God's will regardless of outcome

Be willing to be used by God even if the ministry is difficult or seemingly unfruitful.

Lecture support: Isaiah's call led to a ministry of condemnation, yet he still said, 'Here am I; send me.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Prerequisites to be Used by God - 1

Lecture JW01045

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Lesson 2: Prerequisites to be Used by God - 2

Lecture JW01044

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Lesson 3: Prerequisites to be Used by God - 3

Lecture JW01043

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Lesson 4: Prerequisites to be Used by God - 4

Lecture JW01042

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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

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