

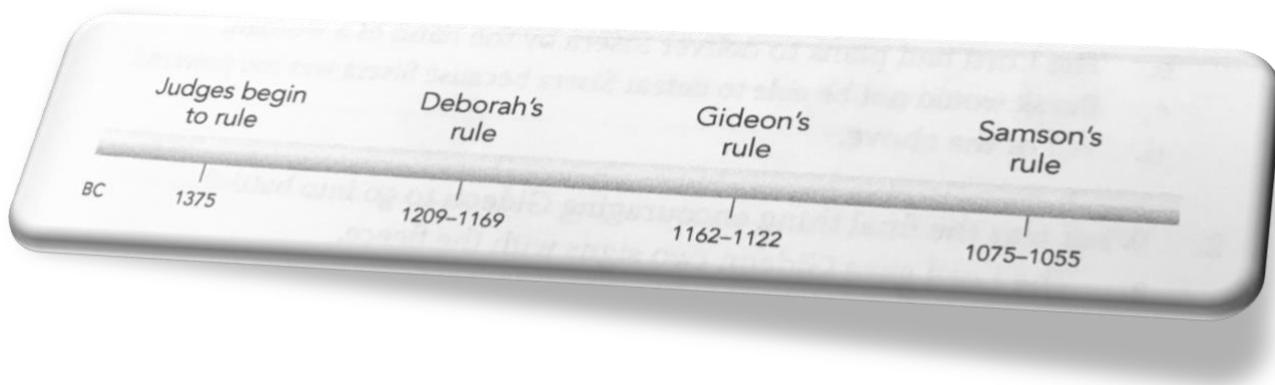
The Story

Session 9: A Few Good Women & Men

Buhler Mennonite Church Sanctuary (and BMC YouTube live-stream) – February 17, 2021

"How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." JUDGES 6:15 (NIV)

1. Opening & Praying



2. Introduction:

- Watch the scripture video: *Judges 6:15*

"God is in the business of bringing sinful people back into relationship with him; sometimes to accomplish this goal, God calls on surprising and unexpected people to help in the process."

- **Reflect on it/Talk About It:** *If you could talk with an angel and have on "why" question answered, what would you ask?*

3. **Review:** As we go through *The Story* together, we want to learn how to tell the story. This week we begin a focus on Movement 2 portion of The Story. Read through Movement 1 in review & then begin to commit Movement 2 to memory.

MOVEMENT 2: *God builds a brand-new nation called Israel. Through this nation, God will reveal his presence, power, and plan to get us back. Every story of Israel will point to the first coming of Jesus --the One who will provide the way back to God.*

Picture	Portion of The Story	Portion of the Bible
	The Story of the Garden	Genesis 1–11
	The Story of Israel	Genesis 12–Malachi
	The Story of Jesus	Matthew–John (Gospels)
	The Story of the Church	Acts–Jude
	The Story of a New Garden	Revelation

4. Know the Story: Pop Quiz

- Why did Deborah tell Barak he would not receive honor in the battle with Sisera?
 - a. Barak would only go to battle if Deborah went with him.
 - b. The LORD had plans to deliver Sisera by the hand of a woman.
 - c. Barak would not be able to defeat Sisera because Sisera was too powerful.
 - d. All of the above.
- What was the final thing encouraging Gideon to go into battle?
 - a. The LORD gave Gideon two signs with the fleece.
 - b. The LORD clearly chose the right soldiers to go into battle.
 - c. Gideon heard the dream of a Midianite soldier.
 - d. Gideon was told by an angel of the LORD the moment to attack.
- Why did Samson finally tell his wife the answer to his riddle?
 - a. She continued to press him for the answer.
 - b. Samson was terrible at keeping secrets.
 - c. She cried for seven days straight.
 - d. She told him he didn't love her if he wouldn't tell her.
- How was Samson able to get his revenge on the Philistines in the temple?
 - a. His hair had grown back, and his strength had returned.
 - b. He was placed in a strategic location in the temple.
 - c. He prayed asking the LORD to strengthen him once more.
 - d. All of the above.

5. Understand the Story: Video with Randy Frazee

Video Guide: As you watch the video use the following outline to record anything that stands out to you.

- Gideon asks the "why" question:
 - "*The LORD is with you, mighty _____* ."
- The truthful answer to the "why" question:
 - "*This _____ will testify against them.*"
- Israel's cycle:
 - Once delivered, the _____ will start all over again.
- Gideon's victory, God's way:
 - God often chooses the most _____ candidate to accomplish his UPPER STORY plan.

6. Video Discussion/Journaling: Write down your answers.

- Contrast how God saw Gideon with how Gideon saw himself (Judges 6:11-16; *The Story*, p. 108). *How does this breathe hope into our hearts in the moments we feel God could never do great things through us?*
- One of the recurring themes in this chapter of *THE STORY* is that a new generation would rise up that did not know God and what he had done for his people in the past. When they forgot, they wandered. This same tragic thing can happen in our generation. *What practical things can we do in our homes and in the church to help the next generation know and remember what God has done in the past so they will hold on to him in the future?*

As Christians, we get ourselves into all sorts of trouble because we want to live life the way we want, not God's way. In the Lower Story we think God has abandoned us. But in the Upper Story God is waiting for us to return to him.

- Have you faced a situation when the odds were against you, and others said, "No way!" but you held God's hand and pressed on? *How did the situation turn out and how was God glorified?*

What area in your life is God presently trying to get you to the place where you embrace the fact that God is enough?

- Based on how you saw Gideon use a fleece, how might you use fleeces in your own life when faced with challenging decisions?
- Baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality ... namely our identification with God. *What is the meaning of baptism and why is this public celebration so important and powerful?* Feel free to share your baptism story.

Personal Reflections: As you pray throughout the week, here are some ideas to get you started:

1. Confess the tendency we have to forget the great things God has done in the past. Ask God to help you remember his faithfulness each day.
2. Thank God that when his people repent and cry out for help, he always sends a deliverer. Give special praise that Jesus came as the One who offers final and absolute deliverance!

3. Tell God that you are ready to follow him and seek to do his will, even when you feel inadequate for the task.

4. Are there any patterns of rebellion and struggle in your life?
What does your personal life pattern look like when it comes to sin and wandering from God? What is one step you can take to begin to break that pattern?

*"God often selects the most unlikely candidate to accomplish his Upper Story plan.
WHY? So when it is accomplished everyone will know it was God.
Then they will turn and glorify God."*

5. **Double Check Your Pop Quiz**

Answer Key: a / c / a / d

Video Notes Answer Key: warrior / song / cycle / unlikely / abandoned /

6. **Next Week:** *The Faith of a Foreign Woman (Ruth 4:14-15).*