YOUNG TWIGS

Judges 6:1–7:25

Year 2, lesson 3

You might have heard someone say, "I think I will throw out a fleece and see what the Lord says..." Learn about how Gideon, Israel's latest judge, screws up his courage for the battle the Lord asks him to undertake. ▲

Observation: *what does it say?*

Read Judges 6:1–7:25 and mark: *Lord/God, Gideon/Jerubbaal, evil, fear/afraid.*

1. Give the verses that describe the pattern we have been discussing in judges:
   - Israel does what is evil in the sight of the Lord. verse _____
   - The Lord gives them into the hands of an enemy. verse _____
   - Israel cries out to the Lord. verse _____
   - God sends a prophet, judge, and rescuer. verse _____

2. Who is the "valiant warrior" that the Lord calls to save the Israelites? What is this "warrior" doing when the Lord calls him? What is his response to the call?

3. Gideon tears down his father's Baal altars and Asherah poles and builds an altar to God. Why does he do this at night?

4. What is the new name that his father gives him after this incident?

5. What signs did Gideon ask for in 6:34-40?

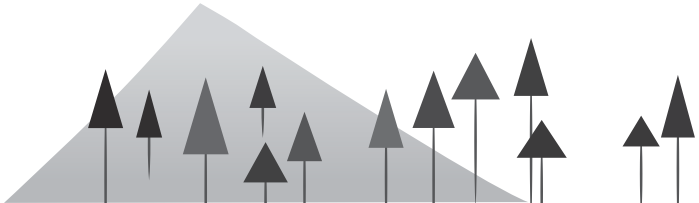
6. What is the outcome of the battle in chapter 7?

Interpretation: *what does the author mean?*

7. In chapter 7, why does God want Gideon to send men home before the battle begins?

8. In chapter 7, Gideon needs another sign to "strengthen his hands." What sign does God provide for him?

Application: *therefore, what shall I do?*

9. How does God show His patience with Gideon's lack of confidence? How has God been patient with you? Has He increased your confidence in doing things for Him (standing up for God's word and His ways, evangelizing, saying "no" when you need to, etc.) Give examples.

10. Gideon "threw out a fleece" before he would make a decision to go into battle. Have you ever thrown out a fleece" (asked for a sign) from God before you made a decision? What happened? When you have a decision to make, what do you typically do?