

Read Judges 6-33-40

33 Now all the Midianites and several other eastern peoples joined forces and crossed over the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel.

34 Then the Spirit of the LORD came on Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, calling all the people of his tribe to follow him.

35 He sent messengers throughout the tribes of Israel, calling them to battle and they too went up to fight against the Midianites.

36 Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised—

37 look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said."

38 And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.

39 Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew."

40 That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

What did the Midianites and several other bad people do next (v. 33)? They all got together and set up camp.

What were they planning to do? They were planning to attack Israel and Gideon.

What did the Holy Spirit do next (v. 34)? He came upon Gideon and Gideon blew a trumpet to get all the people in his tribe to join him in the fight.

What did Gideon do (v. 35)? He sent messengers to other Jewish tribes asking them to fight with him.

What did Gideon propose to God (vv. 36-37)? Gideon's faith was weak so he asked God for a sign to make sure God really wanted him to go into battle and would give him victory over his enemies.

What happened to Gideon's request (v. 38)? God answered it exactly as Gideon requested.

What did Gideon do next (v. 39)? He tested God one more time. He proposed the exact opposite of the last request.

What happened this time to Gideon's request (v. 40)? The same thing. His prayer was answered exactly as he requested.

What did that tell Gideon? That God was indeed going to use him to save Israel and he didn't need to be afraid of his enemies.

Is it okay to bargain with God or test God like that? Gideon already knew what God's will for him was (v. 14).