

## Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

*Memory Verse: Ruth 1:16*

Day 1—Chapter 9 of “The Story”

Day 2—Ruth 1

Day 3—Ruth 2

Day 4—Ruth 3

Day 5—Ruth 4

### Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



### *The Story: A Few Good Men...and Women*

*November 10-11*

*“The Story” Chapter 8; 1 John 1:5-8; Judges 2:10-19*

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.



If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8

Scan to go to  
the message blog or go to  
[www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com).

## Adult and teen small group discussion points

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. Through “The Story” we have discovered that God loves to use surprising people to accomplish his will. As you read about Deborah, Gideon and Samson in this chapter of “The Story,” how is each of them a surprising choice to be a leader for God?
2. Contrast how God saw Gideon and how Gideon saw himself (p. 108). How does this breathe hope into our hearts in the moments we feel God could never do great things through us?
3. False gods trigger a cycle: a web of sin, God’s judgments, crying out for help, and God providing deliverance. What are some destructive cycles you have seen in your own life? Do you think that the Israelites did a good job of passing their faith to the next generation? How can we do this better in the church and in our own families?
4. 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?
5. There seems to be consequences when we refuse to follow God’s ways. Why do you think we continue to repeat the same sin patterns even though we know the outcome will not be good?
6. Where would you be today if God had never allowed his discipline to wake you up to the reality of sin and drive you into his arms?
7. How did God strengthen Gideon and help him press through his fears as he faced the mighty armies of Midian? How does God do this same thing today when we feel inadequate and fearful?
8. 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?

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

Close in prayer.



## Family’s with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Key Verse: [Samson] said, “Lord and King, show me that you still have concern for me. God, please make me strong just one more time.” Judges 16:28

1. When God allowed the Midianites to rule over his people and treat them badly, he raised up Gideon to get the Israelites back on track (Judges 6-8). What type of man was Gideon?
2. Why did God have to raise up judges such as Deborah, Samson, and Gideon?
3. How does this show God’s great love for his people?
4. How does God show his love to us today?
5. God gave Samson great strength. What are some gifts he has given you?
6. How can you use these gifts to bring others to Jesus?

Family Activity: Divide your family into two teams. Gather masking tape, a package of 100 straws, and several eggs. Work in teams to create a casing that will protect an egg when it is dropped. Each team may only use tape and straws. When you’ve finished your designs, proceed outside & see which egg protector works the best. You may need to get a ladder to stand on, as the eggs will all be dropped onto a hard surface from the same height. The losing team (whose egg broke) must clean up the mess. What was the purpose of this game? Explain that the Israelites followed God as long as Joshua and the elders lived (Judges 2:7). God’s people were like the egg surrounded by the protective casing of God’s commands. Chapter 8 of “The Story” shows what happened to the Israelites after they strayed from God’s commands by worshipping idols and following the world’s customs instead of God’s. God loved his people and cared for them, even though they strayed, but they still had to suffer consequences for their actions. Ask these questions:

1. Could the egg survive the fall without the protection of the straw casing?
2. What are some ways that God’s Word gives us protection?
3. Why is it important to know and follow God’s commands?
4. What happens to us when we decide to get outside the protection of God’s commands?

Prayer together: Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the commands that you have given us as rules for our lives. When we stray, send us those who might aid us as your judges of old. Most importantly, thank you for your Son Jesus Christ who kept the law perfectly on our behalf, so that, believing in him, we might come to everlasting life. Amen.

