

Gideon Character Study

The character study is divided into four sections. Scene Observations, Characterization, Plot Structure, and Evaluation. DO NOT go on to the next section until you have finished the previous section.

Scene Observations

For each scene, list the strengths and weakness that Gideon demonstrates in his character. Allow the setting, characterization, and dialogue to help you do this. Use the questions from the **Observation Guide** on page 8. You are not interpreting or applying the story to your life yet. You are merely making observations.

Oppression and Confrontation (6:1-10)

Yahweh Comes to Gideon (6:11-24)

Gideon and the Ba'al Altar (6:25-32)

Gideon Raises an Army (6:33-40)

Yahweh Reduces the Ranks (7:1-8)

Gideon Is Reassured of Victory (7:9-14)

Gideon Routs the Enemy (7:15-23)

Gideon and the Ephraimites (7:24-8:3)

Gideon Chases the Midianite Kings (8:4-21)

Gideon as Victor (8:22-32)

Israel Returns to Ba'al (8:33-35)

Characterization

Determine the characterization of each of the characters in the story (full-fledged, type, supporting, and agent). Consider Gideon, his father, and Zebah and Zalmunna. Are there any foils to Gideon?

Plot Structure

Plot structure the story of Gideon.

What is the major conflict that Gideon faces throughout his life?

What type of plot is this story (tragedy, comedy, etc.)?

Evaluation

1. How do Gideon's character, maturity, understanding of Yahweh, and obedience develop throughout the story?
2. What is Gideon's understanding of Yahweh?
3. How did Gideon deal with the trials and people in his life?
4. Is Gideon an example to follow or to avoid? Why?

Observation Guide

Use these questions and suggestions as a guide to help you evaluate the story and the characters. Try to ask and answer them for each scene in the story:

- Is there a reason for the setting/location in the scene?
- Pay attention to the names of locations and people.
- How does the narrator portray Gideon? Pay attention to his comments.
- How does Gideon interact with others, especially Yahweh?
- Is Gideon obedient or disobedient to Yahweh?
- How is Yahweh portrayed through His actions and dialogue?
- Compare and contrast Gideon's words with his actions.
- Compare and contrast the different scenes with each other.
- Is there any repetition in the passage? Among the scenes?
- Are there any patterns or breaks in patterns?