

cost of discipleship. A small group that is sincere will accomplish more for the kingdom

of God than a large organization that is mechanical in its working.

### FOR TEACHERS IN THE ADULT DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Adult Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY or the PATHFINDER.

Begin to-day by telling the class that during the times of the Judges, Israel suffered from oppression at the hands of the Moabites, the Canaanites, the Midianites, and their allies, the Ammonites, and finally the Philistines. Last week we saw Israel, under the leadership of Barak and Deborah, overcome the Canaanites under Sisera. To-day we are to study the story of how they overcame the Midianites. Point out that the Midianites were desert nomads. Their chief haunt seems to have been in the Sinai peninsula, but they were also in the habit of moving farther north. On the occasion of Gideon's defeat of them, they had evidently undertaken to pour westward across the Jordan into the more desirable territory of Palestine. Use the map to trace out this movement.

I. *Gideon and his army*, v. 1. Gather up such information as is given us about Gideon in ch. 6:11-40. Emphasize the fact that Gideon, when the call came to him to deliver Israel, was conscious of his own inability for the great task. Can the class cite examples of other Old Testament heroes and prophets who felt the same way? What promise is given to Gideon for his encouragement? See ch. 6:16. Point out that God's calls to us are invariably accompanied by his promise of the divine presence. What religious reformation did Gideon bring about before he undertook to defeat the enemy on

the outside? Is there any lesson for us to learn here?

II. *Decreasing the army*, vs. 2-8. The natural assumption would be that a leader with such a task before him as Gideon had, would require all the fighters he could assemble. Why was his army to be decreased? What was the first method taken in order to decrease it? Was it wise, in any case, to weed out the weak-spirited and cowardly? Is it better for a leader to be followed by a few upon whom he can absolutely depend, than by a larger crowd of questionable loyalty? Point out, too, that a weak-spirited body of men is likely to infect the others. What further method was employed to decrease the army? The test used seems a very arbitrary one, and is not easy to explain. How many men had Gideon left for his enterprise?

III. *The night attack*, vs. 16-21. Briefly refer to the dream recounted in vs. 13, 14, which gave additional encouragement to Gideon. Question the class as to the details of Gideon's strategy. Comment upon the cleverness of the plan. Show how the time for this surprise attack was exceedingly well planned. What was the effect upon the Midianite camp? Speak of what may be accomplished by a few devoted men, full of courage and trust in God. Refer to the subsequent career of Gideon as it is related in the next chapter.

### FOR TEACHERS IN THE SENIOR DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Senior Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY or LEAFLET.

The teacher should have well in hand the story of Gideon's call to be the deliverer of his people in ch. 6. This story explains how he came by the name Jerub-baal (v. 1), and describes the two signs by which he was assured of the divine presence. These earlier happenings should be presented as the background of the lesson.

In the teaching of the lesson itself, begin by raising the question how the victory over

the Midianites is to be accounted for. Was it won by the superiority of the army under Gideon? Or was it due to Gideon's generalship? Or must something else be taken into account if this victory is to be understood? Have v. 2 of the lesson read and discuss what light it throws upon the question. Does it not teach that the fight was won by the all powerful help of God? Guide the scholars in an examination of the lesson to see if it