

## ***Happy Corrections—Lesson 1***

# **Confusion About Applying Bible Stories**

*Because the Bible Doesn't Say What You Think It Says*

### **Brief Lesson Summary**

Many Christians become confused or disappointed when they expect God to act toward them exactly as He did in the lives of biblical characters. While God's nature never changes, His actions in specific historical situations often served unique purposes in His redemptive plan. This lesson clarifies how to properly understand and apply the story or narrative sections of the Bible—stories that reveal God's character and work through human lives yet were not written as direct promises or commands to us.

Using Gideon's "fleece" as a case study, the lesson teaches that not every biblical story gives us a pattern to imitate. Instead, narratives show what God did, not necessarily what we should do. Proper application requires understanding genre, context, and the larger story of Scripture—from Genesis to Revelation—where God alone is always the hero.

### **Ice-breaker Question**

Have you ever expected God to work in your life in a certain way because of something you read in the Bible? What happened, and what did you learn from it?

### **Discussion Questions for a Group; Journal Questions for Individual Study**

1. Why can assuming that "if God did it once, He will do it again" lead to misunderstanding what the Bible teaches?
2. What did Gideon's request for a fleece reveal about his faith, and why is this not a model for Christian decision-making? (See *Deuteronomy 6:16; Matthew 4:7.*)
3. According to the lesson, what is a *biblical narrative*, or *biblical story* and why is recognizing this genre essential for proper interpretation?

4. Jeremiah 29:11 is often quoted out of context. How does understanding its setting for exiles in Babylon reshape its meaning for believers today?
5. In what ways can misapplying biblical stories lead to disappointment with God, and how can reading the whole Bible in context prevent this?

### **Life-Application Suggestions – Consider and Respond**

1. Reflect on a Bible story you've often related to personally. What truths about God's character—not just about the human hero—stand out as timeless for your life?
2. When facing a decision, instead of asking God for a sign, turn to His Word. What clear biblical principles already address your situation?
3. Think of a time you were tempted to “put out a fleece.” What does that reveal about trust and fear in your walk with God?
4. Commit to reading Scripture in context and in full. Use chronological reading schedules available on [Bible805.com](http://Bible805.com) to grasp the complete story of God's work.
5. Identify one area of life where you need to trust the Author of your story, even when the plot line is unclear and ask Him to help you do that.

### **Prayer Focus**

Thank God that He is the unchanging, faithful Author of history and of your life. Pray for wisdom to read His Word with discernment, to apply its truths rightly, and to grow in reverence for the God who reveals Himself through every part of Scripture. Ask for deeper trust in His timing and assurance that, in His perfect story, all things will be made right.

