

## April 4 Answers

- 1) The judgeship of Gideon (Jdg 6–8). The people cried out to God for help, and God sent a **prophet** to remind them that their plight was of their **own** making (Jdg 6:1–10). Then, in **mercy** (for there is no record that they repented), God commissioned Gideon, an insignificant man from a **small** family in the tribe of west **Manasseh**, as Israel’s deliverer. God’s choice of Gideon shows us that He uses “what is **weak** in the world to shame the strong” (1 Cor 1:26–29). God does this so that no man may **boast** before Him, for He alone is to be glorified (cf. Jdg 7:2). God greeted Gideon by saying, “The LORD is with you, O **mighty** man of valor” (Jdg 6:12), but Gideon, who was very aware of his shortcomings, completely missed the point: *If the LORD is **with** you, then you are indeed mighty.* God was trying to teach Gideon that it was not his inadequacy but God’s **sufficiency** that counted. It’s encouraging to see how God stayed with Gideon every step of the way, and how He patiently made **allowances** for his fleeces and his fears (Jdg 6:35–40; 7:9–11). God gave Gideon victory over the Midianites, and God used him to **punish** the wayward Israelites of the Transjordan. Their scorn of Gideon and his men was an act of **treason**, for by refusing to give aid to Gideon, they were **helping** the Midianites (cf. Jdg 5:23; Luke 11:23).