



## THE JUDGES

June 27, 2021  
“Gideon”

### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you once again for preserving this ancient text that tells us so much about our own lives. Forgive us for the times we let our success lead us down the wrong path and we take our eyes off of you. Father, we want to do your will in our lives, so could you show us the Gideon in us and then lead us by your Spirit and help us to trust in your love. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

#### Judges 7:2-8 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’ <sup>3</sup> Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

<sup>4</sup> But the Lord said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

<sup>5</sup> So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.” <sup>6</sup> Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.” <sup>8</sup> So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley.

## INTRODUCTION

Gideon was terrified by his circumstances and doubted God's ability to deliver. Test after test ensued as Gideon tried to ensure that God was with him. Even in faithless duty God used Gideon and delivered the people of God from their oppression. However, at the pinnacle of his influence, Gideon finds himself initiating an egregious act of idolatry that becomes a snare to those he had so reluctantly delivered. So what can we learn from the story of Gideon for our own spiritual journeys?

Gideon serves as an example of how God continues to use unlikely leaders to serve His purposes and also cautions us that our greatest times of weakness often occur during our moments of greatest victory. What we learn from Gideon is that we need to rest in God's plan and trust him, we need to believe about us what God believes about us and we should be mindful of our success.

## QUESTIONS

- 1) Do you seek God more during difficult times or when things are going great? Why? How do you feel that affects your relationship with God?
- 2) Have you ever felt like God has abandoned you during difficult times? Were you able to see things differently after you came out the other side of your difficult season?
- 3) Have you ever felt like God was calling you to serve Him in a specific way but you didn't do it because you felt inadequate to do the job? How did that turn out?
- 4) Have you ever asked God for a sign before you made a decision? Do you think it's okay to ask God for a sign or does that show lack of faith?
- 5) Have you ever accomplished something that was so impossible that you had no choice but to give God the glory?

## FINAL APPLICATION

This week, read Gideon's story and see where you see Gideon in you.