



LIFE GROUP STUDY
JUDGES 6-8

Judges chapters 6-8 continue to record the repeated cycle of sin, judgment, and redemption that we saw in the previous chapters. As soon as the God-provided judge died, in each situation the Israelites dove right back into the spin cycle of conquest and chaos.

Read Judges 6-8 and answer the questions below:

1. In the beginning of the account, what was happening in Israel?
How did Gideon suffer the consequences?
2. Why do you think Gideon asked God to confirm His word twice with the wool fleece? What do you think that communicated—doubting God’s word or did it demonstrate a strong faith in God? How did you come to that conclusion?
3. Why did God decrease Gideon’s army from 32,000 to 300 men?
4. Why do you think God had Gideon overhear what the enemy soldiers were saying to each other the night before the battle?
5. What changes do you see in Gideon’s leadership approach throughout the account?
6. Why did Gideon decline the hereditary leadership of Israel?
7. What do you think about Gideon using about 40 pounds of gold captured from the Ishmaelites to make an ephod—a priestly garment? What was the result for Gideon, his family, and the whole nation? What action did he take as a result? What action should he have taken?
8. After you read about Gideon in these three chapters, does it surprise you that he is listed in the faith “hall of fame” in Hebrews 11? In which circumstances did you see his faith being weak and wobbly? Where did you see him exercising strong faith?

9. What lessons can we learn from Gideon's life that may apply to our personal faith walk?

Conclusion:

God's call on our life is not limited by our current circumstances. Gideon was a frightened farmer just trying to feed his family and stay out of trouble when God called him to deliver Israel. Our situation in life, whether it is family dysfunction, fear, wobbly faith, or sin does not limit God and what He wants to do in and through us. Gideon had all of that going on and God still used him mightily to deliver the Israelites from bondage. God can use us regardless of our personal history or current situation.

After the battles were won, Gideon made the golden ephod. Perhaps he intended to use it to commemorate God's supernatural victory over their enemies, but it soon became an object of idol worship. Instead of taking action to correct the abuse, evidently Gideon tolerated it, which led to even greater sin. After a success we need to be especially diligent to guard our heart to keep from compromising and sliding back into sin the Lord has delivered us from.