



THE BOOK OF JUDGES: GIDEON

Text: Judges 6–8

Series focus: Exploring Judges through deeply gifted yet deeply flawed deliverers. God works through broken instruments.

A Climate of Fear

- When we first meet Gideon, he is hiding.
- Judges 6:11 tells us he is threshing wheat in a winepress — a place chosen not for productivity, but for protection.
- Israel was living under Midianite oppression. Their crops were stolen. Their future felt uncertain. Fear had become normal.
- Gideon was not uniquely weak. He was living in a fearful time.
- And if we are honest, following Jesus can sometimes feel similar. Conviction can feel costly. Faithfulness can feel unwelcome.
- God meets Gideon in hiding — but He does not leave him there.

An Unlikely Warrior

- “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.” (Judges 6:12)
- Gideon questions God’s presence.
He questions God’s goodness.
He questions himself.
- He asks for signs.
He obeys — but does so at night because he is afraid.
- His doubt is real. Yet God is patient.
- The coming victory will not showcase Gideon’s strength — but God’s faithfulness.

An Unlikely Strategy

- God reduces Gideon’s army from 32,000 to 300.
- Why? So Israel would not mistake the source of victory.
- The battle plan is unusual: torches, jars, trumpets, and a shout.
- The Midianites turn on one another.
God wins the battle.
- We do not fight for victory — we live from it.

A Subtle Shift

- The story could end there — but it doesn't.
- "For the LORD and for Gideon!" (Judges 7:18)
- It sounds small, but something has shifted.
- Gideon refuses the title of king. Yet his actions tell another story.
- He pursues personal revenge.
He takes gold from the people.
He creates an ephod that becomes a snare.
He names his son Abimelek — "my father is king."
- His lips resist the throne.
His life quietly builds one.
- The danger was not that Gideon began in fear.
The danger was that he began to share in the glory.

The Greater Hero

- Judges tells us, "In those days Israel had no king, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes."
- That was their reality.
- It is not ours.
- We live under a King.
We stand in the shadow of a victory already won.
- Gideon is a broken hero — a canvas pointing beyond himself.
- Jesus is the true and lasting Deliverer.
He alone deserves the glory.

Conclusion

- God meets us where we are — even in fear.
- But He calls us forward.
Not to build our own name.
Not to collect our own credit.
But to live under His kingship.
- Victory does not remove the need for faithfulness.
- Let Him be King.
Give Him all the glory.
Walk in the victory He has already won.

Connect Group Discussion

Warm Up:

1. Where have you seen fear quietly shape decisions — in your life or in culture?
2. What stood out to you most from Sunday's message?

Study & Discussion:

1. Gideon begins in hiding. Why do you think fear had become so normal for Israel?
Where can fear become "normal" in our own lives?
2. God reduces the army so that the victory will clearly belong to Him.

Why is it easy to take credit when things go well?
How can we guard against subtle pride?

3. Gideon refuses the title of king, but his actions suggest otherwise.
What are ways we can confess God as King with our lips, but live differently in practice?

Practice:

This week, pay attention to moments when you are tempted to:

- Protect your image
- Collect credit
- Act from pride or self-preservation

When you notice it, pause and pray:

“Lord, You are King. Help me live like it.”

At the end of the week, reflect:

Where did I give God the glory?
Where did I subtly try to keep it?