



Gideon

Week of May 1–7

Icebreaker Question:

- 1 | When did you last feel overwhelmed or afraid because of something you had to do? How did you handle that situation?

Into the Text Questions:

Read Judges 5-7

- 1 | How would you describe Gideon (mighty, cautious, full of faith, doubting, fearful, wavering, etc.)? Why do you think Gideon balked at God's instruction? How often do we do this, and what does it look like when we do? The Lord was patient with Gideon and is patient with us as well. Why is He so patient with us? When have you used a "fleece" to seek direction from God? What do you think about asking the Lord for signs? What are the dangers of doing so?

- 2 | Who was God's agent to discipline Israel this time, and what did they do? What was the Israelites response? What should be the right response? In Judges 6:6-10, how is God's response to the cries of Israel of sending a prophet better than only sending a judge? Why do the people need a prophet before a rescuer? Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What is the difference between regret and repentance?

- 3 | Examine Judges 6:25-26. Why must the altar of Baal first be torn down before an altar of the Lord can be built (compare 1 Ki. 18:21, Mt. 6:24 and Mk. 10:21-22)? What are your initial reactions to the statement "God is a jealous God"? Why might people want to trust/serve God and something else? What does God do to Gideon's army? What lesson does God want Gideon (and Israel) to learn? How does God reassure Gideon and how does Gideon respond (v 8b- 15)? How is God's victory over the Midianites a picture of the gospel?

Application Questions:

- 1 | Do you think Gideon's throwing out of the fleece is a good thing for Christians today to emulate? Why or why not? What do we learn from this incident about Gideon and about God?

- 2 | What is God trying to teach us through this story? How would your life be different if you trusted God more and relied on yourself less? When you think about your own courage level when facing risk, where would you rank yourself (1, being very fearful of risk, to 10, ready to accept risk)? What needs to change in order for this to happen? How might trusting God *more* impact those around you who don't currently have a relationship with God?