

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 20 Sep 2026

Text: Judges Chapter 8

Sermon: Ted Rastatter

Questions: John Brewer

Overview:

Judges Chapter 8 tells the story that, on one hand, cements Gideon's greatness in the defeat and slaying of the kings of Midian, while also documenting his fall into the temptation of pride. Gideon is elevated to the level of de facto king, and seems to be overcome by the success and honor he receives in his meteoric rise.

From the text, Ted drew out "5 toxic traits that shipwreck our faith." In other words, five symptoms of the underlying sin of pride. They are:

1. People pleasing
2. The demand to be honored
3. Taking credit for God's work
4. Hunger for power
5. Idolizing leaders

Discussion Questions

A. Based on the text, Ted drew out the following seven reflection questions for us. Discuss these with your group. Which ones are the greatest temptation for you?

1. People pleasing: Whose approval are you more concerned about right now: God's or other people's? Have you been compromising what honors God because you are afraid of disappointing someone?
2. The demand to be honored: When someone dishonors you, overlooks you, or disappoints you, what comes out of your heart in that moment? Do you respond with grace, or do you feel like you've got to make them pay?
3. Taking credit: Where in your life have you begun taking credit for what God has done? Are you using the spiritual gifts, influence, success, or resources God has given you to make much of yourself or to make much of Him? Consider how you use or invest your time, money, and relationships.
4. Power and control: Where are you tempted to consolidate power, control the outcome, or make people dependent on you rather than pointing them towards Jesus?
5. Idolizing leaders: Is your faith anchored in Christ or is it dependent on a particular pastor, ministry leader, or influential Christian? If that person were removed tomorrow, would your confidence in Jesus remain? What about political leaders?

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6. Finishing well: If the trajectory of your life continued in its present direction, where would it lead you? Are you becoming more like Gideon and his pride or more like Jesus in his humility?
7. The kingdom of Christ: What would it look like this week to stop building your own kingdom and begin seeking Christ's kingdom?

B. What does it mean to finish well? What truths from scripture remind us how we finish well?
Reference Hebrews 12:1-2, 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Matthew 24:9-14, John 10:28-30, Philippians 1:6.