

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

6 September 2026

Judges Chapter 7 (also see John 3:30, 1 Cor 1:27, 2 Cor 12:9, Ro 5:8, Eph 2:8-9, and at bottom of page)

Sermon: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Kraig Neer

This week we read about Gideon and his troops who were too many for the Lord to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast saying, “my own hand has saved me” (v. 2). What followed in the text was a reduction in Gideon’s force, reassurance from God to Gideon as he’s about to go into battle, and a rescue that comes unmistakably by the hand of God.

Questions:

1. Reduction (vs 3-8):
 - a. For what purpose did God reduce Gideon’s forces?
 - b. What character quality(ies)/attributes of God are on display in this passage?
 - c. In similar fashion we too must be reduced, making room for God’s power to work in and through us. See John the Baptist’s example in John 3:30 as well as Paul’s statement in 2 Cor 12:9. What is an area in your life right now where relying on your own strength, status, or control might actually be blocking you from experiencing God’s power?
2. Reassurance (vs 10-14):
 - a. In verse 11, the Lord instructed Gideon to go down to the Midian camp with Purah so that afterward his “hands shall be strengthened,” trading one level of reassurance (32,000 men) for another (an interpretation of a dream). How is it that an interpreted dream about a loaf of barley brought about reassurance?
 - b. What reassurance has God given you in this last week?
3. Rescue (vs 19-25):
 - a. Why do you think Gideon and the 300 men blew trumpets, smashed clay pots, and yelled - couldn’t the Lord have done this on His own? What does this tension tell us about the relationship between God’s absolute sovereignty and human responsibility?
 - b. Given the torches were in the jars (v. 16) and the jars were broken (v. 20) before the light of the torch could be seen, compare this image to Paul’s description in 2 Corinthians 4:7

The main application question becomes, as Ted put it, “are we willing to be weak enough to be used by God?” As you think about this, be reminded how Jesus ultimately embodied this concept in the following passages:

Reduced: Lu 2:6-7, Mat 9:10-11, Mat 27:11-14, and Phil 2:5-8 (see also the Greek word for “humble” in vs 8 (“tapeinoo”))

Reassurance: Lu 22:41-44, Jn 16:32-33, and Acts 1:4-5

Rescue: Lu 24:1-7, Acts 2:22-24, and Ro 8:10-11

Activity for kids: Have a bowl filled with 100 small items (e.g., penny chocolates, paperclips, or beads).

How to Run it:

The Large Army: Tell the group the bowl represents Gideon's original army of 32,000 men.

The First Cut: Remove 68% of the items (68 pieces) to represent the 22,000 fearful men sent home. You are left with 32 pieces (representing the 10,000 remaining).

The Final Cut: Take away almost everything else until you have **just one single item** left (representing the 300 men—a 99% reduction).

Discussion Prompt: Hold up that single item next to the full bowl and ask: *"If you were Gideon looking at this drop from 100 to 1, what would be your immediate emotional reaction?"*