



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“HEBREWS 11:32-40 / JUDGES 6-8” ON MARCH 17 & 20, 2022

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER: HEBREWS 11:32-40/JUDGES 6-8

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

Hebrews 11:32–40 and Judges 6, 7, and 8: In Hebrews 11 we have been studying the ‘Hall of Fame of Faith;’ we have seen a pattern of individuals who were chosen by God to do His will, and who by faith made decisive decisions followed by consistent attitudes. Their stories show us examples of how God can use even the most unlikely people for His purposes, and they show us the character of the God we serve! The last verses of this chapter summarize the lives of additional great men and women of faith. Gideon is the first to be mentioned, and his story can be found in Judges 6, 7 and 8.

GIDEON: Chapter 6: The Israelites, God’s chosen people, had been under attack by the enemy Midianites for 7 years, and they now cried out to God for help. God sent first a prophet to confront the Israelites; He then sent an angel of the Lord to approach Gideon to save Israel from the power and oppression of the Midianites. Gideon was at first reluctant and doubtful, but he ultimately allowed God access to his heart and responded in faith and obedience.

- Why was God allowing His chosen people to suffer under the power and oppression of the Midianites? How did they let things get so bad before they cried out to God?
- Can you describe a time when, like the Israelites, you have experienced either as an individual or as a community/nation how things can get really bad before we realize we need God? How can being obsessed with our own way, then finding ourselves in a miserable state cause us to view God?
- When God sent His angel to Gideon, Gideon was at a point of weakness and misery in his life; that is right where God met him, in the middle of his ‘mess.’ What things in our lives cause us to find ourselves in the middle of ‘messes?’ Have you or someone you know experienced how God meets us in the middle of our ‘messes?’ How did you see God work in that situation?
- After God called Gideon to be Israel’s deliverer, He immediately asked him to remove the idols the Israelites had allowed into their lives – the altars of the pagan god Baal and the Asherah poles. What are some idols/sins/obstacles in your own life that you need to be willing to clear out to give God access to your heart so you can see the power of God in your life?
- In order for Gideon to follow God, he had to risk his standing in his community. Can you describe a situation that, if you took a stand for God’s kingdom, could cost you things you find your comfort and security in?
- Before stepping into a battle, Gideon needed encouragement and tested God, asking for two miracles with a wool fleece! Have doubt and/or fear ever brought you to a point of testing God? How did you respond in faith, and how did God move in your situation? What do you learn about God from that?

THE BATTLE-Chapter 7: Gideon gathered a great army of men to fight the Midianites, but God cut the number of fighters down to 300 by some unusual methods. He then gave a most unusual battle plan!

- What was God’s purpose in sending Gideon’s men into a huge battle with only 300 men, and why would He instruct the use of such unusual ‘weapons?’
- What does the outcome of the battle show us about placing our faith in God’s plans and humbly obeying Him in threatening circumstances?

LESSONS FROM GIDEON’S STORY:

- What through the life of Gideon do we learn about the character of God, and what does that teach us about



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

- who WE are?
- How do we keep ourselves from forgetting the Lord? How is your 'humility meter' helping you focus on what God is doing in your life rather than your own accomplishments?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.