



Faith Community Church  
Gideon, Part 2  
(Judges, Part 5)

Faith Group Questions  
& Discussion Guide



**Opening Prayer:** Ask God to help us finish well.

**Icebreaker:** What is one project, hobby, or New Year's resolution you started with 100% enthusiasm but abandoned within a month?

**Key Takeaways:**

1. The Trap of Success. After the victory, the people wanted to make Gideon a king. Gideon verbally gave glory to God, but his actions contradicted his words. Success often makes us more vulnerable to sin than failure does.
2. The Drift of Compromise. Gideon built a gold statue and ignored God's design for marriage, taking many wives and a concubine. Compromise doesn't happen all at once. It's a slow drift where we stop "tearing down altars" and start building our own.
3. Gideon was a hero in the crisis but a failure in the calm. Faithfulness isn't just about blowing trumpets in battle; it's about the "daily grind," staying consistent when no one is cheering.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Last week, did you do the focus challenge, the altar audit, simply obey, or speak potential? Tell us about it!
2. Gideon started by tearing down his father's idols, but ended by building one of his own. Why is it often harder to see the "idols" we create ourselves than the ones others have built? (Matthew 7:1-5, Romans 2:1-4)
3. John Calvin said, that – "The human heart is a perpetual idol factory" What are some modern "golden ephods" (like success or ministry) that can become snares in our lives? How can we fight that? (Matthew 6:19-33)

4. Gideon said the right thing ("The Lord will rule over you") but lived like he was king. How can we tell when our "Christian vocabulary" is masking a heart that is actually seeking its own glory? (Matthew 23 - break it into paragraphs if you want!)

5. Gideon was faithful during the war but struggled during the 40 years of peace that followed. Is it harder for you to trust God in a crisis or in the "routine"? (Deut 6:10-15)

6. The name Abimelech ("My father is king") reflected Gideon's hidden pride. If someone looked at your Facebook page or your priorities, what story would they tell about what you value most? (Matthew 6:21, Philippians 2:1-8, Matthew 19:16-22)

7. For the mothers or those in a "mundane" season: How does the truth that "God sees the unseen moments" change your perspective on the tasks that feel thankless? (Colossians 3:23, Ecclesiastes 9:10, Psalm 9:9-10)

8. What does "finishing well" look like for you in your current stage of life? What is one "slow drift" you need to correct now? (Deuteronomy 4:9, 2 Timothy 4:1-8)

### **Practical Applications**

1. The "Ephod" Audit: This week, identify one area of success or one possession in your life (your career, a hobby, a relationship) that you have begun to prioritize over God. Take a specific step to "dismantle" its influence—this might mean a fast, a change in schedule, or a redirection of funds.

2. Consistent Courage in the Grind: Pick one "mundane" task you typically complain about or rush through (housework, commuting, administrative tasks). Commit to doing that task this week as an act of worship, praying for endurance and thanking God for the "ordinary" peace Gideon took for granted.

3. Legacy Check-In: Gideon's secret compromises led to a tragic legacy for his children. Identify one "small" compromise in your character (honesty, lust, greed, or anger). Confess it to a trusted friend and ask for accountability to stop the "fade" before it impacts those you lead.

**Closing Prayer:** Father, we ask for "finishing strength." Please help us be as faithful in the quiet seasons as we are in the loud ones. In Jesus' name.