



Content taken from The Book of Judges; 2018; J.D. Greear

Week 5

Opening Prayer

Opening Discussion:

1. What did we learn from Judges Ch. 6 last week about God's choice of a deliverer? Who was it? Why might he have been an *unexpected deliverer* for Israel?

2. What did we learn about the following:
 - a. Courage

 - b. Israel's comfort with *compromise*

 - c. God's faithful reminder to fearful followers

Today's Themes and Scripture Passages

- Judges 7

Video 5

Discussion Questions

3. God told Gideon that a change was needed as far as the number of fighting men who would face the Midianites. What did God say? Why? (See *Judges 7:2-3*)
4. After the number of fighting men had been adjusted, God asked to revisit the number a second time. What did God ask Gideon to do this time? (See *Judges 7:4-8*)
 - a. What is God doing through these intentional reductions in Gideon's fighting force? More specifically, what is God trying to teach Gideon and Israel?

Personal Application Point: What is God saying to you through these examples?

5. Sometimes fear is hard to shake. How did God respond to Gideon's struggles with fear? (See *Judges 7:9-15*) Does this surprise you? Explain.

Personal Application Point: What does this mean to you, when it comes to areas of fear or faltering faith in your life?

6. When it was all said and done, how much room did Israel have to boast in their own ability and strength? What did God show them?
7. Pastor J.D. spoke about how God often uses our weaknesses to teach us to depend on Him. He said, "If dependence is the objective, then weakness becomes an advantage." What does our culture say about strength and weakness? Which one is more desired? Why is it more desirable?

Personal Application Point: What part of seeing 'weakness as an advantage' and 'dependence as the objective' is most difficult for you?

Personal Application Point: What weaknesses has God used in your life to teach you to depend on him?

Closing Prayer

Dear God, daily we are tempted to rely upon our own wisdom and strength. Even in our best moments, if we are advancing without You, we are actually going backwards. We desire success in life, but we want it to be by Your hand, and through the presence of Jesus. Forgive our faltering faith, and be pleased to use us, that You alone would receive the glory! In Jesus' Name, Amen.