



JUDGES CHAPTER 8 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- Who is someone that you respect as a leader? What do you admire about him or her?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Judges 8:1-35)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU INTRODUCE SOME OF THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES AND THE JUDGES CYCLE WITH YOUR GROUP.**

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Judges 8:1-21

- Reread Judges 7:1-12. Notice that Gideon's conversation with God and God's conversation with Gideon is both rich and deep. This type of conversation is not present prior to Gideon going to battle in chapter 8. Why is this important to both know and understand? How is this applicable to you and me today?
 - Gideon understood who he was in relationship to who God was in chapter 7. He was relying on God's strength and power to accomplish what God had called him to do. In chapter 8, God is really not spoken about as a central figure to the battles that Gideon is fighting. In other words, it seems as if Gideon is acting on his own accord, agenda, and initiative. The rich

and deep conversation that was present in Judges 7 is nowhere to be seen in Judges 8.

- In what ways is it easy for you to forget about what God has done and is doing for you? How can you more proactively remember that it is God who sustains you rather than yourself?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- What do you think has changed in Gideon from when he hid in the winepress to what you just read?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What are some of your strengths? When are you tempted to take pride in your own strengths rather than God's power?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Judges 8:22-35

- It is important to note that ephods were closely associated with hearing from God, and they were garments that were worn by the High Priest who were the only ones allowed near or into the presence of God. When Gideon created this ephod, he made it outside the rules and regulations of the Levitical Law. By doing so, he not only led himself astray but also led his people astray while he was alive and after he died.
- While Gideon did not submit to the people's request for him to rule over them and told them that God would rule over them, how did Gideon attempt to "have his cake and eat it too?"
 - Gideon did not seek to give God first place and glory in absolutely everything. He wanted some of what belonged to God and took action in getting it.
 - In what ways are you tempted, or do you seek to take God's place and/or glory in your own life? What can you do to more fully remember who you are and remember who He is?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Notice part of the legacy that Gideon leaves for himself, his family, and for the entire nation of Israel according to verse 27.

- In what ways do you need to pay closer attention to your example and the legacy that you are leaving for the people around you? How can you do this with God leading the charge?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

□ What happens to the Israelites yet again after their judge dies? Does this indicate that their problem is external (in other words their enemies) or internal (their hearts and spiritual conditions)? How does this apply to you and me today?

- Israel again falls into the trap and cycle of doing their own thing and being on their own agenda. This does indicate that their issue is internal. They are in need of heart changes that external circumstances and even leadership won't fix. For you and me today, we sometimes fall into the trap of believing that external circumstances are going to fix the issues that are taking place deep within our own hearts, minds, and souls. Circumstances don't change those things, but God does.

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Judges Chapter 9)



JUDGES CHAPTER 8 (STUDENT)

Discussion Starter

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Judges 8:1-21

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 - In what ways is it easy for you to forget about what God has done and is doing for you? How can you more proactively remember that it is God who sustains you rather than yourself?
 - What do you think has changed in Gideon from when he hid in the winepress to what you just read?
 - What are some of your strengths? When are you tempted to take pride in your own strengths rather than God's power?

Judges 8:22-35

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 - While Gideon did not submit to the people's request for him to rule over them and told them that God would rule over them, how did Gideon attempt to "have his cake and eat it too?"
 - In what ways are you tempted, or do you seek to take God's place and/or glory in your own life? What can

you do to more fully remember who you are and remember who He is?

- Notice part of the legacy that Gideon leaves for himself, his family, and for the entire nation of Israel according to verse 27.
 - In what ways do you need to pay closer attention to your example and the legacy that you are leaving for the people around you? How can you do this with God leading the charge?

- What happens to the Israelites yet again after their judge dies? Does this indicate that their problem is external (in other words their enemies) or internal (their hearts and spiritual conditions)? How does this apply to you and me today?