

Series: Wax Museum Saviors

Scripture and Background Information for May 08-14.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we continue our series *Wax Museum Saviors*. With the help of the book of Judges, we want to look at what type of leaders we choose and follow; or the type of leaders we tend to be. The book presents a mirror in front of us, showing us where Israel's aspiration led and where ours does too. The book of Judges invites us to look at our hearts to question whom we want to trust to lead our life. Today, we talk about "**Gideon**."

Background for Judges 6:11-16, 7:1-6:

The book of Judges comes right after the events of the book of Joshua. We see God's faithfulness in the midst of Israel's disobedience and God's power to deliver them through His strength not their own. Our text today builds on that concept of God's strength at work through our weakness in both chapters 6 and 7. .

In chapter 6 we see a new cycle of rebellion and God's response as Israel is delivered over to the Midianites. They cry out for help and God goes to Gideon and directs him to judge (deliver) Israel. The problem is that Gideon is not your ideal leader/deliverer type. Instead, he's insecure and see's himself as too weak for the task. God patiently encourages him that He will be with Gideon and helps Gideon's faith to grow. In chapter 7 we see Gideon assemble his army, and yet God's plan is to send soldiers home and keep the force at 300 men so that Israel would know where the victory came, not from their strength but God alone. These two obstacles of insecurity and self-sufficiency are primary obstacles to the life of faith God called Gideon and calls us to live out as well.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. Contrast the way God greets Gideon and the way God views Gideon with the way Gideon views himself. Which of these viewpoints is correct? How is insecurity something that can hinder our walk of faith with Christ?
2. Gideon has several questions about God in the midst of the circumstances Israel faced. At the heart, what is Gideon claiming about God's work and their current sufferings? How do we make similar claims when we face trials in our own life?
3. V.2 is crystal clear God's motives for limiting the size of the army. How is self-sufficiency a hindrance to the walk of faith? In what ways might you be relying on your own strength rather than looking to God's strength to work in your weakness?
4. Describe a time when you have seen God work through your weakness. What are some of the major takeaways you had after experiencing those moments?

Note: The Lord loves to work in seasons of trial to help us live in faith/trust in His power. It is often in those areas of weakness or inability where God shows off His power in a crystal clear way.

Remember the two books that will help you wrestle with difficult portions of the book: Paul Copan's "Is God a

Moral Monster?: Making Sense of the Old Testament God” and the appendix of Timothy Keller’s “Judges For You: For Reading, For Feeding, For Leading.”