

Life Group Guide Jud 7:1–25 “Faithful or Fainthearted”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Jul 2 and For Use in Life Groups through Sun Jul 9

Icebreaker Question

What was your most terrifying amusement park ride? How did the fear impact you?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

I. The Test of Our Faith (vv. 1-8)

- a. The Test of Gideon’s Faith
 - i. The First Test of Gideon’s Faith (vv. 1-3)
 - ii. The Second Test of Gideon’s Faith (vv. 4–8)
- b. Three Principles to Live by Faith When Life Makes No Sense at All
 - i. Remember when life makes no sense we are being strengthened (Judg. 7:2; Jam. 1:2-4).
 - ii. When life makes no sense we have to remember that we aren’t supposed to always figure life out (Judg. 7:4-7; Isa. 55:8-9).
 - iii. When life makes no sense we need to rely on principles and precepts in God’s Word (Judg. 7:1-8; Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 1:20).

II. The Encouragement of Our Faith (vv. 9–15a)

- a. God encouraged Gideon’s faith in two ways.
 - i. God gave Gideon another promise (v. 9).
 - ii. God gave Gideon another sign (vv. 10–14).
- b. Three Essentials to Mature in Your Faith.
 - i. Prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 - ii. Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - iii. Godly Relationships (1 Peter 4:8)
 - Three ways to be intentional with your relationships:
 - 1. Show your love (1 John 3:18).
 - 2. Forget about yourself (Romans 12:3).
 - 3. Extend grace (1 Cor. 13:5).

III. How God Honors Our Faith (vv. 15b–25)

- a. Three ways God honored Gideon’s faith.
 - i. God gave Gideon wisdom to prepare the army (7:15b–18).
 - ii. God gave Gideon courage to lead the army (vv. 19–22).
 - iii. God gave Gideon opportunity to enlarge the army (vv. 23–25).
- b. Three principles people must remember when walking by faith (Heb. 10:24-25; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 John 1:9).
 - i. Maintain an active relationship with other believers in your life (Heb. 10:24-25).
 - ii. Continually renew your mind (Rom. 12:1-2).
 - iii. Regularly spend time in God’s Word and personal confession (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 John 1:9).

Jud 7:1–8

Read Jud 7:1–8: Observation

1. In Jud 7:1–3, as Gideon’s army faces Midian, what does God say to Gideon? What is God’s concern about the large army?
2. In Jud 7:3, what happens after God makes this observation?
3. In Jud 7:4–5, what does God say about this new smaller army? What does God ask next?
4. In Jud 7:6–8, how many men remain with Gideon? What does God promise?

Interpretation

5. How does God’s test of Gideon and Israel compare to Gideon’s test of God at the end of the prior chapter? What role does fear, especially the fear of death, play in both tests?
6. Why is God glorified in our weaknesses rather than in our strengths?

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Application

7. Please consider what parts of your life are controlled by the fear of death or people? How might you fear and love God rather than fear death or people this week? Will you pray and seek help toward this goal? What needs to change in your life?

Jud 7:9–18

Read Jud 7:9–18: Observation

8. In Jud 7:9–11, what does God command Gideon, and what does He allow Gideon to do?
9. In Jud 7:12–13, what dream does Gideon hear from a man in the Midianite camp?
10. In Jud 7:14–15, how does the friend explain the dream? What does Gideon do next?
11. In Jud 7:16–18, what instructions does Gideon give to his army?

Interpretation

12. What advantage do we have over Gideon in trying to understand God’s will? Why did God use such strange methods to communicate then? How does God communicate with His church?
13. Why must God be patient with His people? Do our failures undermine God’s good plan? Are our failures unimportant or meaningless?

Application

14. Please memorize Jud 7:18.
 15. How might you remember the ways that God has been patient with you in the past few weeks? Will you prayerfully thank God for His patience? Will you share your story with others?
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Jud 7:19–25

Read Jud 7:19–25: Observation

16. In Jud 7:19–22, what does Israel do? What is Midian’s response? What does God do?
17. In Jud 7:23, who is called to join Gideon and Israel?
18. In Jud 7:24–25, whom do the men of Ephraim capture, and what do they do to him?

Interpretation

19. Why are God’s instructions and commandments often different from what we would do or want? How can believers be found more faithful to God’s commandments? What habits or spiritual disciplines help believers to follow God? How does one believer’s faithfulness impact believers and non-believers?

Application

20. How might you use Judges 7 to help someone struggling with what difficult commands from God and the Scripture?
 21. How will you honor God if and when a fellow believer rightly points out a sin you need to out off so that you can obey God more faithfully?
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