



Sermon Discussion Guide

Gideon Under His Own Power: The Downfall - Christian Lindbeck

October 31, 2021

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- Tell the story of one time where you really wanted to receive credit for something you accomplished.
- What was one time you started something well, but took things a little further than maybe you should have?

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- **Read Judges 8:4-21**
 - How is your understanding of this passage shaped by the context?
 - That Gideon and his army have crossed East of the Jordan river, and are on the offensive?
 - That the people of Sukkoth and Peniel are fellow Israelites?
- **Read Judges 8:22-35**
 - What trappings of kingship do we see Gideon pursue?
- **For all of Judges 8:4-35**
 - Where do we see the Lord acting in this passage? Where do we see Gideon acting of his own strength?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.



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- Christian prompted us to think through the question, “How does this happen?” How do we see the failings of Gideon and the Israelites being repeated in the Church today?
- In verses 20-21, Gideon is bringing his son up in the ways of the world rather than of the Lord. Are there ways people today are brought up in the way of the world?
- Gideon’s story exhibits many shortcomings and failings. How does his fall point to our need for Jesus, and how does Jesus show what walking faithfully with God might look like in the places Gideon turned away?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- How are you able to connect to or relate with Gideon in this story? How does this encourage or challenge you?
- Throughout today’s passage, Gideon takes credit for the work done by God. Is there something in your life you want to lift in gratitude, knowing that God deserves all the credit?
- As Christian challenged us, we are called to make bright and beautiful places and spaces in an increasingly darkening world. How might you do that in the week ahead?

Time of Prayer