

**March 26, 2026**

**BOOK: Judges 8-9**

**Opening Questions:**

- a. Have you ever been rejected when asking a favor? How did you handle it?
- b. Name something you want to pursue in the next few months. What obstacles or setbacks do you anticipate?
- c. Name an item (other than your bible) in your home that you find yourself turning to when you're seeking clarity or comfort?

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What was Gideon's motivation for approaching Sukkoth and Peniel?
2. Should the people of Sukkoth and Peniel have helped Gideon and his men?
3. Discuss the pros and cons of why Sukkoth and Peniel refused Gideon. Are they just being selfish or smart? (*Jud. 5:17, 23*)
4. Is there an irony in Peniel's refusal to assist Gideon? (*Gen. 32:28-30*) What is the significance of the tower?
5. Do you think Gideon overreacted in his response or was he justified? Is Gideon seeking revenge, here?
6. How do you reconcile the difference in Gideon's approach to the Ephraimites versus Sukkoth & Peniel?
7. At this part in the battle, what do you think kept Gideon pursuing the Midianite kings?
8. Discuss the downstream effects of Gideon's killing/pursuing the kings. What would happen to the people who followed them?
9. Was Gideon being a bad parent when he asked his son to kill the Midianite kings?
10. Do you have any thoughts about why the Midianite kings tell Gideon to "do it himself?" Are there any practical reasons why they preferred Gideon to do the honors?
11. What was the purpose of Gideon's question in verse 18.?
12. What is an ephod? (*Ex. 39:2-5, 28:6-14, 28-30, 1 Sam. 23:9-10*).
13. Why do you think the Israelites requested Gideon and his family rule over the people? Would there be any benefits to the arrangement?
14. From the text, did Gideon actually decline the offer fully? Explain your answer. Consider his post-victory request?
15. Is there an innocent reason why Gideon set up the ephod?
16. How could Gideon resist the Israelite's invitation to rule in place of God, yet worship the ephod in God's stead? (compare verse 22 to verse 27)?
17. How would you characterize Gideon's final years? Was it a life of faith? Obedience to the Lord?
18. From the Israelite behavior after Gideon's death, what can you take away about the spiritual health of the nation? Cite examples.