

Judges 6

Discussion Guide: Judges 6

Theme: *From Fear to Faith — God Meets Us in Our Weakness*

Big Idea

God meets His people in their fear and failure, calling them into His purposes—not because they are strong, but because He is.

Opening Icebreaker

- When have you felt clearly called to do something—but hesitated because of fear or insecurity?

Discussion Questions + Leader Notes

1. In Judges 6:1–6, what is happening to Israel—and how severe is it?

Leader Notes:

- Midian devastates the land
- Israel is hiding, starving, and desperate
- This is one of the lowest points so far
- Sin has led to deep suffering again

2. Before delivering them, God sends a prophet (6:7–10). Why does God do this first?

Leader Notes:

- He reminds them *why* they are suffering
- This is about spiritual clarity, not just relief
- God addresses the root problem (disobedience), not just symptoms

3. What stands out about Gideon when we first meet him (6:11–13)?

Leader Notes:

- Hiding in a winepress (fear, survival mode)
- Honest, even questioning God
- “Where are all His wonderful deeds?”

- He's discouraged, not heroic

4. How does God address Gideon in 6:12—and why is that striking?

Leader Notes:

- "Mighty man of valor"
- Doesn't match Gideon's current reality
- God speaks identity based on His calling, not Gideon's feelings

5. What excuses or objections does Gideon raise (6:13–15)? How do they sound familiar?

Leader Notes:

- "God has abandoned us..."
- "I'm the weakest..."
- "My family is the least..."
- Common pattern: doubt God + doubt self

6. What is God's answer to all of Gideon's fears in 6:16?

Leader Notes:

- "But I will be with you"
- God doesn't argue with Gideon's weakness—He answers with His presence
- This is the turning point

7. Why does Gideon ask for signs (6:17–24, 36–40)? What does this reveal?

Leader Notes:

- He wants reassurance
- Mixture of faith and fear
- God is patient—but this is not ideal faith
- Important: don't over-celebrate fleece-testing as a model

8. What is the first thing God tells Gideon to do (6:25–27)? Why is this significant?

Leader Notes:

- Tear down his father's altar to Baal
- Before external victory → internal obedience
- Revival starts at home

9. Why does Gideon do this at night (6:27)? What does that tell us?

Leader Notes:

- He's still afraid
- Obedience doesn't require the absence of fear
- Faith can be trembling and still real

10. How do the people respond—and what does Joash say (6:28–32)?

Leader Notes:

- People are outraged
- Joash defends Gideon → "If Baal is a god, let him contend..."
- False gods are powerless when exposed

11. What changes in Gideon in 6:33–35? What's different now?

Leader Notes:

- "The Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon"
- He begins to lead and call others
- Confidence is growing—but still not complete

12. What does this chapter teach us about how God works in fearful, hesitant people?

Leader Notes:

- God initiates
- God is patient
- God calls before we feel ready
- God builds faith over time

Closing Application

- Where are you currently operating out of fear instead of faith?
- What is one step of obedience God may be calling you to take—even if you feel unready?
- Are you waiting for perfect clarity... instead of trusting God's presence?

Gospel Connection (Leader Emphasis)

- Gideon is not the hero—God is
- Gideon needs reassurance, signs, and time
- Jesus doesn't need reassurance—He perfectly trusts and obeys the Father

A strong way to frame it:

"Gideon needed constant reminders that God was with him. In Christ, we are given something better—not just signs, but the permanent presence of God through the Spirit."

Leader Tip

Help people see:

- Weak faith is still faith
- But don't let them settle there—God is growing them