

{un}faithful - 5
Week of March 5, 2017
Bay Park Life Groups – Participant’s Guide

We, as humans, are driven by the pursuit of success. This is as hardwired into us as our desire to seek out community or our fear of death. It’s why many people have made careers out of being motivational speakers, trying to inspire people to be the best versions of themselves for the sake of glory, self-worth, and success. The tension for Christians, then, is the struggle between giving God the glory and accepting the glory as our own. In today’s study we’re going to take a closer look at some of the pitfalls of success and why the story of Gideon serves as a reminder that God deserves all the glory.

1. What are some of the dangers of success?

Read Judges 6:1-24

2. Think back to the first couple of studies where we referenced the cycle the Israelites find themselves in. How is the cycle different in this week’s passage with regards to the oppression (verses 1-6)? What about with how God responds to the Israelites crying out to Him (verse 7-10)?
3. What does this suggest about the type of “crying” Israel is doing? Why do the people need a prophet before they have a rescuer?
4. Who speaks in verses 12 and 20? Who speaks in verses 14, 16, and 18? What is strange about this? How does Gideon react when he realizes who he has been speaking to in verse 22?

Read Judges 7:1-23

5. What does God do to Gideon’s army? What lesson does God want to teach him, and Israel?
6. God reassures Gideon of victory in verse 9. How should the manner of the victory in verses 16-23 help Gideon and Israel to trust in God and not boast in themselves?

Read Judges 7:24-8:31

7. Israel has not learned “the lesson of the triumph of the 300”. How do we see that here with the tribe of Ephraim? With the inhabitants of Succoth and Peniel? With Gideon?
8. What do we learn from Gideon about the dangers of God-given success? How is it possible to make the same mistakes today? When do you most need to remember the “lesson of the 300”?