




# JUDGES

our deepest need





*Living Joyfully*

**A Conference for Widows**

**April 2**

**at North Hills Church**



# Baptism Service

Apr 17

Register  
Online

“And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, ‘The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.’ And Gideon said to him, ‘Please, my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us?’

“And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.

“And the Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?’

“And he said to him, ‘Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’ And the Lord said to him, ‘But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.’

“And he said to him, ‘If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me.’”

Judges 6:12-17



Insecurity

low-end

high end



Insecurity



low-end

self doubt

high end

Insecurity



**low-end**

self doubt

anxiety/fear

**high end**

## Insecurity



### low-end

self doubt  
anxiety/fear  
uncertainty

### high end

## Insecurity



### low-end

self doubt  
anxiety/fear  
uncertainty  
indecision

### high end



“My drive in life comes from a fear of being mediocre. That is always pushing me. I push past one spell of it and discover myself as a special human being, but then I feel I am still mediocre and uninteresting unless I do something else.



“Because even though I have become somebody, I still have to prove that I am somebody. My struggle has never ended, and I guess it never will.”

Madonna

1. Gideon is unstable.



1. Gideon is **unstable**.

- to the men of Ephraim

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- to the men of Ephraim
- to the men of Succoth/Penuel

“And Gideon came to the Jordan and crossed over, he and the 300 men who were with him, exhausted yet pursuing.

“So he said to the men of Succoth, ‘Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are exhausted, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian.’

“And the officials of Succoth said, ‘Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?’

“So Gideon said, ‘Well then, when the Lord has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will flail your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers.’”

Judges 8:4-7

- He responds so **diplomatically** to the **strong** and so **cruelly** to the **weak**.

- He responds so diplomatically to the strong and so cruelly to the weak.
- He is patient with his own **insecurities** but has **no patience** with the insecurities of others.



1. Gideon is unstable.
2. Gideon is **spiteful**.



Jim Collins



Jim Collins

Level 4 Leader



Jim Collins

Level 4 Leader

Level 5 Leader

1. Gideon is unstable.
2. Gideon is spiteful.
3. Gideon is **egotistical**.

“Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, ‘Rule over us, you and your son and your grandson also, for you have saved us from the hand of Midian.’ Gideon said to them, ‘I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the Lord will rule over you.’”

Judges 8:22-23

- He asks for the **spoil**.

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“And Gideon said to them, ‘Let me make a request of you: every one of you give me the earrings from his spoil.’ (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.) And they answered, ‘We will willingly give them.’ And they spread a cloak, and every man threw in it the earrings of his spoil.” Judges 8:24-25



- He asks for the spoil.
- He **makes an ephod**.

- He asks for the spoil.
- He **makes an ephod**.



“And Gideon made an ephod of it and put it in his city, in Ophrah. And all Israel whored after it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and to his family.”

Judges 8:27

- He asks for the spoil.
- He makes an ephod.
- He takes on a **harem**.

“Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and lived in his own house. Now Gideon had seventy sons, his own offspring, for he had many wives.”

Judges 8:29-30

- He asks for the spoil.
- He makes an ephod.
- He takes on a harem.
- He names his son **Abimelech**.

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- He takes on a harem.
- He names his son **Abimelech**.

Abimelech = “my father is king”

“As soon as Gideon died, the people of Israel turned again and whored after the Baals and made Baal-berith their god.

“And the people of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hand of all their enemies on every side, and they did not show steadfast love to the family of Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) in return for all the good that he had done to Israel.”

Judges 8:33-35



“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God.

“For it is written, ‘He catches the wise in their craftiness,’ and again, ‘The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.’

“So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.

“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

“But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court.

“In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.

“Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

“I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.



“For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”

1 Corinthians 3:18 - 4:7