

# Faithfulness Cycle



# Judges God used...

- Othniel – the poster child judge.
- Ehud – The unsuspected judge.
- Shamgar – Killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad.
- Deborah – A judge with wisdom and character.
- Gideon -

## **Romans 9:30-32(NIV)**

<sup>30</sup>What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; <sup>31</sup>but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. <sup>32</sup>Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the “stumbling stone.”

## Ephesians 4:13(NIV)

<sup>13</sup>until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

We will never experience the full blessing of being a Jesus follower unless we set our hearts on growing and maturing in our faith. God loves you too much to let you go through life without a full knowledge of his love for you.

# The Responses of Weak Faith

Waiting for God to do something **for us** versus **with us**.

## **Judges 6:12-13(NIV)**

<sup>12</sup>When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”

<sup>13</sup>“But sir,” Gideon replied, “if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian.”

# The Responses of Weak Faith

## Evaluating our own weakness versus God's Power

### **Judges 6:14-16(NIV)**

- <sup>14</sup>The LORD turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”
- <sup>15</sup>“But Lord,<sup>f</sup>” Gideon asked, “how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”
- <sup>16</sup>The LORD answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together.”

# The Responses of Weak Faith

God knows our weak faith and he extends the  
hand of peace.

**Judges 6:23(NIV)**

<sup>23</sup>But the LORD said to him, “Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.”

# When God renews our Faith

Where does our weak faith come from?

## **Judges 6:25(NIV)**

<sup>25</sup>That same night the LORD said to him, “Take the second bull from your father’s herd, the one seven years old.<sup>£</sup> Tear down your father’s altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole<sup>£</sup> beside it.

# When God renews our Faith

Evaluate the idols in our life and tear them  
down.

## **Judges 6:26(NIV)**

<sup>26</sup>Then build a proper kind of<sup>£</sup> altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second<sup>£</sup> bull as a burnt offering.”

# When God renews our Faith

Gideon's faith was not magically restored, but  
his small steps of obedience allowed God to  
work.

# Righteous Faith

## Judges 8:23(NIV)

<sup>23</sup>But Gideon told them, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The LORD will rule over you.”

Gideon’s faith was built around what God can do with weak men who lack faith; the faith that says God can save us even when we are still sinners.