



**Wednesday, February 16**

Accomplishing God's work is usually a team project, done by faithful followers who are willing to trust God and one another. When one of God's leaders refuses his or her mission, God may move the task to another who is willing.

**Judges 4– 5**

- Deborah is the only female judge for the people of Israel documented in the Bible. What different leadership responsibilities did she fulfill in this passage?
- Deborah and Barak chose to tell their story of God's amazing faithfulness through a song. In what ways are you uniquely equipped to tell stories of God's faithfulness to you?

**Thursday, February 17**

God called a reluctant, timid peasant named Gideon to become one of Israel's most influential judges. Even the least among us can be God's heroes if we are willing to step out in obedience.

**Judges 6—7**

- On what occasion did Gideon respond in obedience to God's instructions? What range of emotions did he display?
- Gideon requested physical signs from God before he would obey. Followers of Jesus, however, live a life guided by faith rather than by signs. Read Hebrews 11:1-2 and John 14:26-27. What instructions do these verses offer you?

**More Scripture**

Judges 8—Gideon's final victory, then spiritual downslide

**Friday, February 18**

Even a questionable personal history (according to the world's standards) doesn't stop God from using a willing, faithful leader for great purposes. The judge Jephthah was one such leader, but his own pride became his devastating personal downfall.

**Judges 11:1—12:7**

- Who initially put Jephthah into leadership? How was his leadership clearly confirmed by God?
- God didn't require a vow from Jephthah in order to be victorious in battle, and the results of Jephthah's prideful decision to make one anyway had disastrous results. Have you ever made a promise to God you did not need to make or were unable to keep? What happened? What did you learn?

**Saturday, February 19**

Samson's adult life was filled with both heroic feats and moral compromise. His blatant violation of God's law eventually brought about his defeat. But as an analogy to the pattern of the Israelite tribes, Samson turned from his wayward behavior back to God and received empowerment one last time to accomplish a victory.

**Judges 16**

- Samson possessed physical strength but lacked moral strength. What reasons do you think Samson as a judge (leader of Israel) used to justify his behavior?
- Are you in spiritual compromise of any kind right now? What needs to happen for you to realign yourself with God's desires for your life?