**Gideon’s Growth (Judges 6-8)**

We will begin this session by considering some of the archaeological evidence for Gideon and for the judges in general. We will then look at how Gideon gives us an example of growth and decline in leadership. Gideon goes from being a coward to leading God’s people but then sadly, at the end of his life, goes astray.

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1. **Archaeological evidence from names for the book of Judges**
   1. Evidence for the name Gideon (and other names ending in -*on*)
   2. Evidence for the name Jerubaal
   3. Evidence for the name Abiezer
   4. Evidence for the names of the Midianite chiefs: Oreb, Zeeb, Zebah and Zalmunna
2. **What God can do with someone who is fearful**
   1. The historical context of Gideon
   2. God’s calling
   3. Being a bit brave, mostly afraid
   4. God’s patient reassurance
3. **God does not share his glory**
   1. An army too big for God to use
   2. Small is beautiful
   3. More reassurance
   4. Something very brave
   5. A series of remarkable victories
4. **Pride comes before a fall**
   1. How Gideon resists the first temptation
   2. But ends up where his clan started
   3. Lessons for us
5. **Contrast with Christ**