



DATE	July 31, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	When Success Fails
SERIES	The book of Judges contains some of the strangest stories you'll ever hear. These unusual stories are entertaining, confusing, dramatic and even a bit crazy. But they also contain deep spiritual insights and truths. You can't make this stuff up!

Icebreaker Questions

What areas of your life would you consider to be successful?

How would you describe your prayer life?

What is the difference between biblical success and worldly success?

Going Deeper

In the sermon, David talked about two things pull our hearts away from God. First, our strengths that turn into successes, and second, our prosperity as a result of our success. Can you identify with either of these stumbling blocks?

Gideon lost sight of his need for God when he acquired success. Desperation leads us to a position of need before God. Do you recognize a difference in your need for God based on your life circumstances? Where else in scripture do we see people lose sight of their need for God? Where do we see people recognize their need for God?

David mentioned that, "Our ultimate problem isn't around us; it is in us." What root sin causes us to have an unhealthy perspective of success?

How does pride affect our relationships with God and others?

Application

In the story of Gideon, the odds were against him. Not only did Gideon win, he did so with no casualties. This is an example of when leaders lead miracles happen. Have you experienced situations where you know God fought the battle for you and as a result of that miracles happened?

David brought up the five indicators that your life has become "all about you," which are an infrequent prayer life, failure to consult others, resentment, materialistic expectations, and constantly guarding our reputation. How have these indicators appeared in your own life? How can you avoid making your life become "all about you" in the future?

Proverbs 18:1 says that "An isolated man seeks his own desires...." In what areas of your life do you feel isolated? How can we challenge each other in community to be seeking the Lord rather than our own fleshly desires?

We are all good at something; what are you good at? How can you use your strengths to bring God glory? What would it look like to be desperate for God in your life this week?