

House Group Questions - Judges 8:22-27 and John 3:16-17

22 March 2026

GIDEON: Idols and dangers of mission drift.

Preacher: Paul Newman

1. Paul outlined the cycle we discover in the Book of Judges, a pattern that is repeated again and again, judge by judge: PEACE → EVIL ACTIONS → OPPRESSION → CRY OUT TO GOD FOR MERCY → A DELIVERER RAISED UP → PEOPLE LED BACK TO GOD → PEACE Where else do we see this happening in the Bible and in wider history?
2. How do you respond to the idea that the main function of a biblical book like JUDGES is to hold up a mirror to the truth about human life. Can you think of other instances where the Bible does this?
3. Gideon's ephod stands as an example of making something 'religious' into an idol – an object or activity or cause we put in the place reserved for God alone. Can you think of some of the pitfalls into which the church today can fall?
4. Read John 3:16 – 17. How are we to best explain this 'gospel in a nutshell' to those who need to know God loves them?
5. Richard Rohr has written: ***“Christianity is a lifestyle—a way of being in the world that is simple, nonviolent, shared, and loving. However, we made it into an established religion (and all that goes with that) and avoided the lifestyle change itself. . . . The world has no time for such silliness anymore. The suffering on earth is too great.”*** If that is true, how do we respond in prayer?