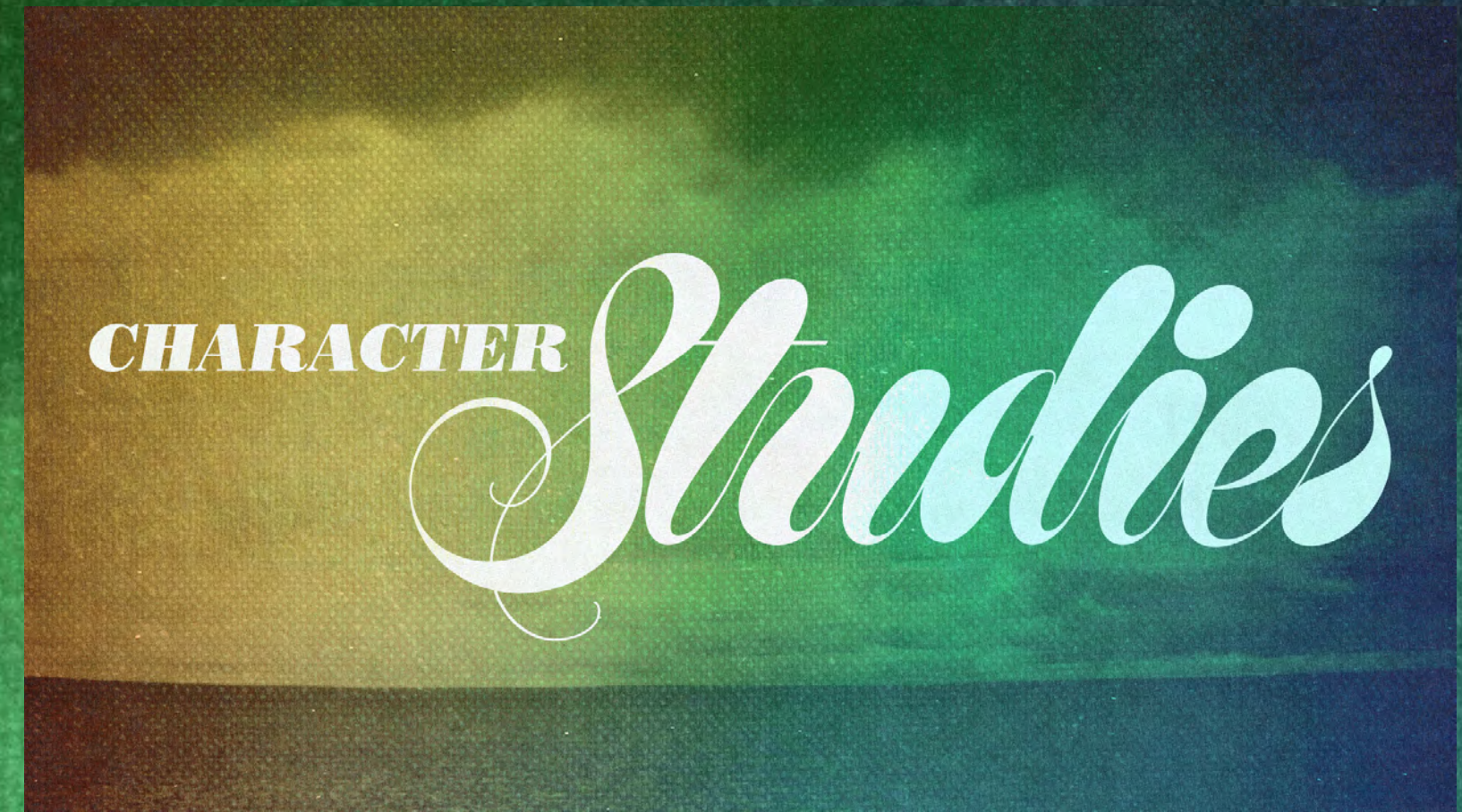




Character Studies

Week 1

Gideon - It's Not About You

Elder John Smith — Reston Bible Church — Sunday, July 12, 2026

**And the Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying,
“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places.”**

Numbers 33:50-52 ESV

Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and that He may confirm the word that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Deuteronomy 9:5 ESV

When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.

Judges 1:28 ESV

They did not destroy the peoples, as the Lord commanded them, but they mixed with the nations and learned to do as they did. They served their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood. Thus, they became unclean by their acts, and played the whore in their deeds.

Psalms 106:34-39 ESV

Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

1 Corinthians 15:33 NASB

**Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify
your hearts, you double-minded.**

James 4:8 ESV

And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. They abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtarothe. So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and He gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them.

Judges 2:11-14a ESV

Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them.

Judges 2:18 ESV

But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.

Judges 2:19 ESV

**In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

Judges 21:25 ESV

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 ESV

**As they had their pasture, they became
satisfied, and being satisfied, their heart
became proud; therefore they forgot Me.**

Hosea 13:6 NASB

Hence his fame spread afar, for he was marvelously helped until he was strong. But when he became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the Lord his God.

2 Chronicles 26:15b-16a NASB

**The world is passing away, and also its lusts;
but the one who does the will of God abides
forever.**

1 John 2:17 NASB

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:4 ESV

What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

1 Corinthians 4:7 ESV

“Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”

Revelation 12:10 NASB

**And Satan stood up against Israel, and
provoked David to number Israel.**

1 Chronicles 21:1 KJV

And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the Lord. When the people of Israel cried out to the Lord on account of the Midianites, the Lord sent a prophet to the people of Israel.

Judges 6:6-8a ESV

Then the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites.

Judges 6:11 NASB

**And the angel of the Lord appeared to him
and said to him, “The Lord is with you, valiant
warrior.”**

Judges 6:12 NASB

Then Gideon said to him, “O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did the Lord not bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to Midian.”

Judges 6:13 NASB

And the Lord looked at him and said, “Go in this strength of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?”

Judges 6:14 NASB

And he said to Him, “O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s house.”

Judges 6:15 NASB

And the Lord said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”

Judges 6:16 ESV

“I will be with you.”

Exodus 3:12 ESV

“Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.”

Joshua 1:5 ESV

“The Lord is with you, valiant warrior.”

Judges 6:12 NASB

“Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20 ESV

Behold the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means “God with us”.

Matthew 1:23 NASB

And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David, and Samuel and the prophets...

Hebrews 11:32 NASB

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation.

Hebrews 11:1-2 ESV

**“My sheep hear My voice and I know them
and they follow Me.”**

John 10:27 ESV