



## Judges Series Study Sheet

Week 8—June 2

Message Title: Signs of Spiritual Decline

Text: Judges 8

Read Judges chapter 8.

In this sermon Reuben mentioned three factors that contributed to Gideon's spiritual decline—personal agenda, pride and idolatry. What are some other factors that cause people to drift away from God?

If you drew a line graph of your spiritual journey to this point, what would it look like? Which way is your spiritual line graph going at the moment?

Share about a particular time in your life (maybe now) that you experienced spiritual decline (a deterioration in your relationship with God). What was that experience like for you? What were the contributing factors and symptoms? How did you respond?

Many of the factors that stunt our spiritual growth are so subtle. How can we detect spiritual decline when it is happening in our lives?

What about times when we just feel far away from God? Is that a sign that our relationship with God is in trouble or not? How should we respond to those times?

We all have huge spiritual blind spots—things that are unhealthy in our lives that we are simply unaware of. How do you feel knowing that there may be unhealthy patterns in your life that you don't see?

How can we deal with spiritual blind spots in our lives?

Can you identify anything in your life right now that is weakening your relationship with God and/or your Christian life?

What steps can you take to deal with that issue? How can your group help you?

How can we live more examined lives and become more aware of forces that influence our faith in unhealthy ways?