**Chapter 8: a few good men & women**

**Icebreaker Question**: Have you ever been rescued from a dangerous or difficult situation? What happened and what did you learn?

1. Israel was constantly running from the true God to other false gods. What are some of the false gods in our culture today? Which of them have you trusted?
2. False gods trigger a cycle: a web of sin, God’s judgments, crying out for help, and God providing deliverance. What are some destructive cycles you have seen in your own life?
3. Do you think that the Israelites did a good job of passing their faith to the next generation? How can we do this better in the church and in our own families?
4. How would you describe Deborah? What qualities do you admire in her? In what ways (if any) does her story influence your view of women in leadership?
5. What important lessons do you learn from Gideon’s story about . . . spiritual leadership? faith/trust? God’s sovereignty? What can you apply to your own life and present situation?
6. In what ways was Samson a faithful man of God? In what ways was he not faithful?
7. What was Samson’s true weakness? How can you deal with your weaknesses before they become your downfall?
8. Where do you see God’s grace in this chapter?

9. Which character in this chapter stands out to you and why? What qualities do you admire most in this person? How can you develop these qualities in your own life?

In the time remaining ask your group members to share any of their personal reflection insights from their journal entries.