



## One Nation Under God

### MAIN THING

A People Who Forget Their Past Have No Future

### SCRIPTURE

Psalms 33:12, Judges 6:11-13 and 25-30, Judges 6:1-6, 2 Corinthians 3:17

### ICEBREAKER

When you were a kid, what was your favorite family tradition?

### OPENING THOUGHT

History is full of societies that start out strong and fade and fizzle over time. When Israel had been delivered from slavery in Egypt, God had made it clear that it was His doing. He sent the plagues. He parted the Red Sea. He provided for them in the desert with manna. He caused the walls of Jericho to come tumbling down. He established them in the promised land of Canaan.

However, Israel couldn't stay faithful. By the time we get to the story of Gideon, maybe 200 years after the city of Jericho fell, we see a pretty shocking sight. Worship of God was gone. There were altars to a god named Ba'al everywhere. Asherah poles (worship of the goddess Asherah) were everywhere. They had totally forgotten God. However, that wasn't the worst part. The worst part was that they actively fought against anyone who suggested that they turn their hearts back to God who brought them there. This is the finished work of the society that has forgotten who it is- not only have they removed the foundation of their society, but they actively fight against and try to destroy anyone who suggests going BACK to their foundation.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. Is America a Christian nation? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think the concepts of freedom and liberty are so closely aligned with Christianity? Why is it basically impossible to have one without the other?

### LIFE APPLICATION

There is a very good statement, "Control the history, control the people." This is why totalitarian dictators, upon assuming power, would rewrite history books. Apparently when Soviet Union premier Khrushchev took power after Joseph Stalin died, he ordered Soviet Union textbooks be written with no reference to Stalin in them at all. No idea how you do that, but he tried. Control the history, control the people.

Many, if not most, Americans have no idea of the influence of Christianity on our nation's founding. What effect has this editing of Christianity out of our nation's history had on us? Would you describe America as less free, about the same, or more free than it was fifty years ago?

### CHALLENGE

When Gideon was called by God, where did he start? His home. He went and destroyed the altar in his father's house. God always calls us to start at home. What are some things you can do as a family to remember America's Christian foundation so that it leads you and guides you in life?