

LESSON 47

Gideon's Victory

JUDGES 7



BIBLE TRUTH

THE HAND OF THE LORD SAVES ISRAEL

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read Judges 7 from the Scriptures or read story 47, “Gideon’s Victory,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Three Hundred Trumpets
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ kazoos or other party noisemakers (one for each child)
 - ✓ balloons (one for each child)
 - ✓ pushpins (one for each child)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Midianite Camp Skit
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ actors dressed up as the two Midianite soldiers, Gideon, Purah, and any props you would like to add to make the skit more interesting (Earth-toned fabric remnants with holes cut in the middle and rope belts would work fine.)
6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 47—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
God Wanted the Glory
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ wooden blocks
 - ✓ large ball
 - ✓ prize for the winner and the whole class

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God reduces Gideon’s numbers—Gideon brings thirty-two thousand men to fight against the Midianites. But God knows that winning the victory with such a large army would tempt Israel to think they had won the battle without God’s help. So God instructs Gideon to send some of the men home. When Gideon has done everything God tells him, only three hundred men are left, less than one percent of the men that he started with.

God builds Gideon’s faith—Imagine yourself in Gideon’s place. God calls him to take three hundred men and attack an army so large that it “lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance” (Judges 7:12). Anyone would be afraid when asked to do this.

But God knows that Gideon cannot lead his men well unless he has confidence in God. So God sends Gideon and his servant close to the Midianite camp. There, they hear about the dream and its interpretation. This builds Gideon’s faith, and he immediately rallies the three hundred men to action.

God throws the Midianites into confusion—This is an amazing story of how God uses three hundred men to send a vast army fleeing in terror. At any other time, an army like this would have stood its ground, but as we read in Judges 7:22, “the Lord set every man’s sword against his comrade and against all the army.”

If the Lord had not thrown the Midianites into confusion, the attack might have startled them but not terrified them. Instead of fleeing, they would have attacked and killed the Israelites. As it was, the Midianites attacked each other. God won a victory for himself and for his people!

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Judges 8:27.

The story of Gideon is a story of God saving his people. Gideon followed the Lord in faith during the battle, but it wasn't long after the battle ended that Gideon fell into sin. He made a golden ephod (a vestlike outer garment). All of Israel came to see it and sinned in its presence. The house of God was in Shiloh and it was there that the priest wore a golden ephod. Gideon created his own alternate place of worship. One day a deliverer would come who would not sin—Jesus the Lord.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Judges 7 from the Scriptures or read story 47, "Gideon's Victory," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Three Hundred Trumpets

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ kazoo or other party noisemakers (one for each child)
- ✓ balloons (one for each child)
- ✓ pushpins (one for each child)

The idea of this activity is for the children to see how a few people making a loud noise together can create a lot of noise. This will show the strategy behind Gideon's plan.

Distribute noisemakers, balloons, and pushpins. Read the account of the defeat of the Midianite army. At the proper time, have one child play the role of Gideon leading in the first trumpet blast (play the kazoo). As soon as the class hears the kazoo, they should all play their kazoos. Then when the Israelites break the oil pots, have the children pop their balloons with the pushpins.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **Did Gideon have a good plan? Why do you think it was good?**
(Gideon's plan was a good one because it gave the impression to the Midianite soldiers that they were surrounded. They naturally would have thought that at least a division of men was behind every trumpet.)

- **Can Gideon take credit for this victory?**
(No, it was the Lord who built Gideon's confidence when he overheard the dream of the Midianite soldiers. And it was the Lord who gave the dream and interpretation to the soldiers. Additionally, it was the Lord who caused the Midianites to fight each other in the confusion of the attack.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Midianite Camp Skit

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ actors dressed up as the two Midianite soldiers, Gideon, Purah, and any props you would like to add to make the skit more interesting (Earth-toned fabric remnants with holes cut in the middle and rope belts would work fine.)

This could be a fun way to make the story alive to the children. Tell the story leading up to Judges 7:9 and then have your actors act out verses 9–18. The class can be the three hundred Israelites and you can be the narrator. There are only a few lines spoken by the Midianite soldiers and Gideon as he rallies his troops in verses 15 and 17.

Tell the rest of the story, Judges 7:19–25 without acting. Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why did God give Gideon the option of spying on the Midianites?
(God wanted to help build Gideon's faith.)
- How did God build Gideon's faith by what he overheard?
(God gave both a dream and interpretation to the Midianite soldiers whom Gideon overheard. Imagine picking out two soldiers out of 130,000 and hearing this dream. That is why Gideon was so excited to return to camp and commence the attack.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 47—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- If you were going into battle against your enemy what would you rather have, a trumpet or a sword?
- If you were going into battle against your enemy what would you rather have, a trumpet with God's help on your side or a sword without God's help?
(Of course it would be better to have a trumpet and God because he is all-powerful and does not need swords to win battles.)
- Do you think Gideon's men were afraid?
(Yes they were afraid, but God gave them faith to trust him for the victory.)
- What kinds of things could the Lord have done to defeat the Midianites other than using the Israelites?
(He could have brought disease, fire, earthquakes, or any other means to defeat Gideon's enemies.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

God Wanted the Glory

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ wooden blocks
- ✓ large ball
- ✓ prize for the winner and the whole class

Set up about a dozen blocks in a long line on one side of your classroom. Ask for volunteers who would like to try knocking down the blocks for a prize. Give the ball to several volunteers and have them try to knock down all the blocks with one throw. (Set up the blocks so that it is practically impossible to knock them down in one turn.)

After multiple children have attempted the task, ask them how likely they think it is for one of them to knock down all the blocks. They should start to realize that it is impossible. Connect their situation with Gideon taking only a handful of men to win a battle over tens of thousands.

Then explain that it was only with God's help that the victory was possible. Then give the ball to one student and have every student also put their hands on the ball, and then let it go.

Keep the ball moving by pushing it yourself and knock down every last block. Then give all the children a prize.

While they are enjoying their prize, ask them who knocked down the blocks? They could answer, "We did," or "the teacher did." Both are correct. But then ask them who really gets the glory or the credit? Talk about how with Gideon, God wanted the glory for the victory. God is always the one who receives the glory or honor for everything we do. Without his help even our hearts would stop beating, and we would not be able to live.

LESSON 47 - GIDEON'S VICTORY

