

GIDEON'S VICTORY

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JUDGES 7



The STORY

Read "Gideon Chooses his Army," "A Whisper in the Night," and "Trumpets and Lamps" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (page 108-111).

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What happened in the story? (With only 300 men, Israel, by God's power, is able to defeat a much bigger army of Midianites.)
- Why did the Lord tell Gideon to only have 300 soldiers do the fighting? (God told Gideon his army was too big – that a small army would beat the Midianites. God was teaching Israel to put their trust in the power of God. So, even though their enemy was thousands of soldiers bigger, God came out to fight for Israel this day and used only 300 men to defeat the Midianites.)
- Gideon became afraid after the Lord told him to fight with so small an army. What did God tell Gideon to do so he would not be afraid? (God told Gideon to sneak down at night to where the Midianites were camping and listen to what the Midianites were saying about Israel. He heard that the Midianites were so afraid of Israel and God because of bad dreams they were having about fighting Israel.)

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CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Gideon leading men with trumpets and torches at night. Engage the children by asking:

- 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 in 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.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Gideon's story is amazing. What amazed you the most about this story?
- Do you know anyone that reminds you of a Gideon?
- Have you ever been afraid of something? What was it? How did God help you to be brave and not be afraid?
- What would you have done if Gideon had asked you to be one of the 300 soldiers called to fight the huge army of the Midianites? Would you have trusted the Lord? Would you have believed God and followed Gideon?



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Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Gideon's faith to go into battle with so few men did not come quickly. In fact, God was patient with Gideon and built his faith with many miraculous signs, the most important of which was the visit from the pre-incarnate Christ (the angel of the Lord in Judges 6:11-24). In Judges 6:16, the Lord answered Gideon's concerns about being the weakest of his family, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

Our salvation comes today as it did to Gideon then; we can only be saved if the Lord saves. We, like Gideon, face impossible enemies in sin and death. Only the blood of the Redeemer can bring us the victory.

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 vest-like 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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

