

Gideon

Judges 6-8

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

In the years that followed the death of Joshua, God's chosen leader, the children of Israel lost sight of the True God and started worshiping false gods. Because of this great sin, the Lord allowed the enemies of His people to overrun Israel. They raided the homes of the children of Israel and stole their cattle and grain. For seven years this happened until finally the children of Israel turned to the Lord and cried out for help.

God told Gideon, a faithful believer, to prepare an army, but before doing so Gideon asked for two signs. First, he placed sheep's wool on the ground and asked God to allow the dew to be only on the wool or fleece and not on the ground. In the morning there was no dew on the ground, but the fleece was filled with water. Then Gideon asked God to keep the fleece dry, while covering the ground with dew. The next morning everything was just as Gideon had asked.

Now Gideon called together an army. Many men gathered to fight with Gideon, but God told Gideon his army was too large! Gideon called his army together and told any man who was afraid of the upcoming battle to leave and return to his home. Lots of the men left and some stayed to fight. The Lord told Gideon again that his army was too large. This time Gideon told the men to go to the water and drink from it. Some men knelt on both knees and lapped up the water like a dog. Only three hundred of the men took cupped water into their hands and drank by taking their hands to their mouths. The Lord directed Gideon to take the 300 men and go meet the enemy who had many thousands of men.

That night, the Lord said to Gideon,

"Get up and go down to the camp of the enemy and I will give you the victory." At midnight, Gideon gathered his 300 men and gave each man a pitcher which held fire inside and a trumpet. At the sound of the Gideon's trumpet the other men blew their trumpets and broke the jars containing the fire, and shouted, "the sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

The enemy soldiers woke from their sleep and in their confusion at the sounds and the light of Gideon's army, they killed each other and those that were left fled, with Gideon's army chasing them.

Gideon and his men, along with the children of Israel, chased their enemies, defeated them in battle, and enjoyed many years of peace under the blessing of the Lord. Only with the help of the Lord could such a few men win a battle against many men.

Gideon was chosen by God and given gifts to set God's people free from their enemies.

We are chosen by God and given gifts for the work of the Church.

Passages

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing will be impossible.

Psalms 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

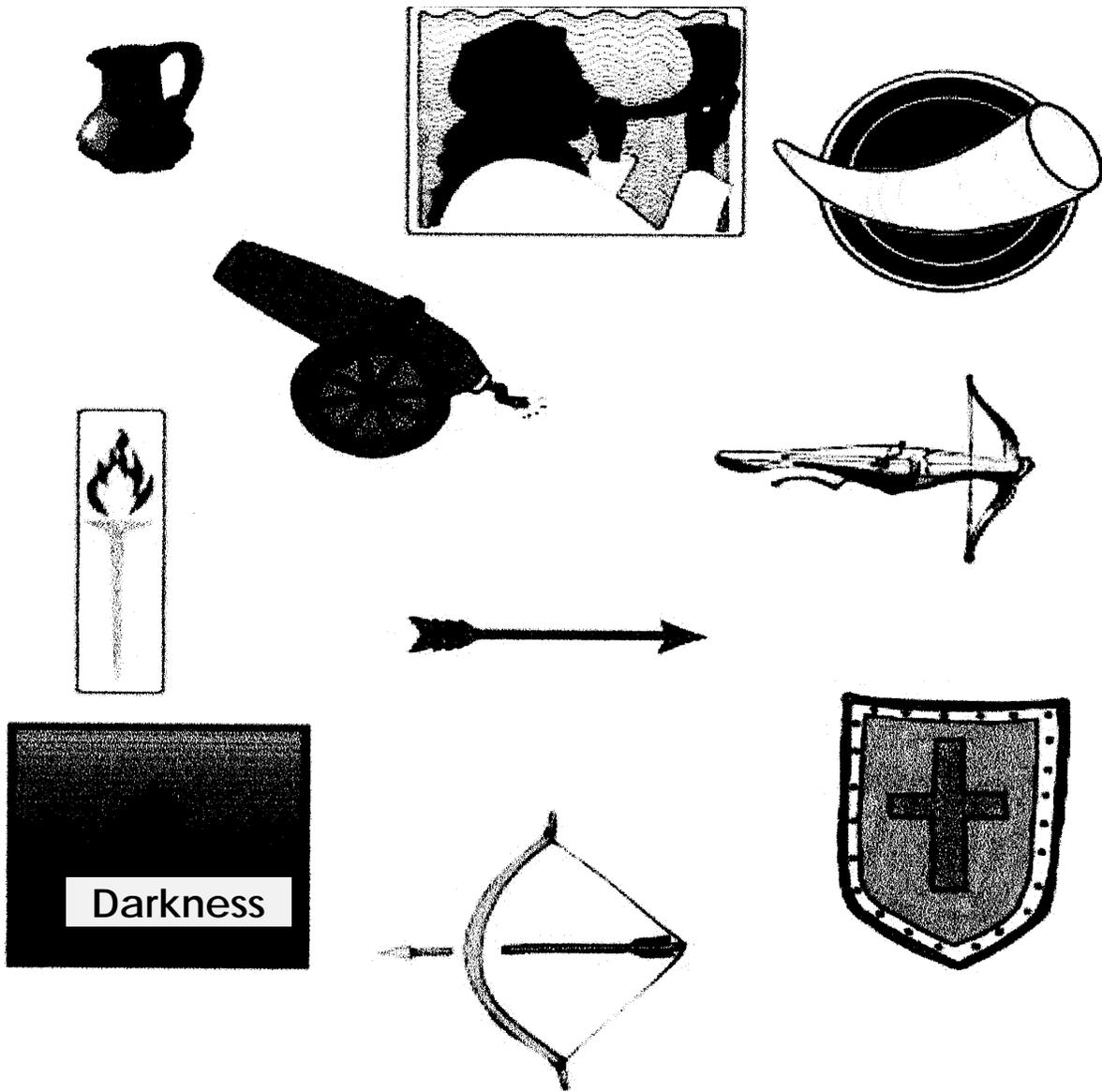


Hymn & Prayer - TLH #396 v. 1, 2

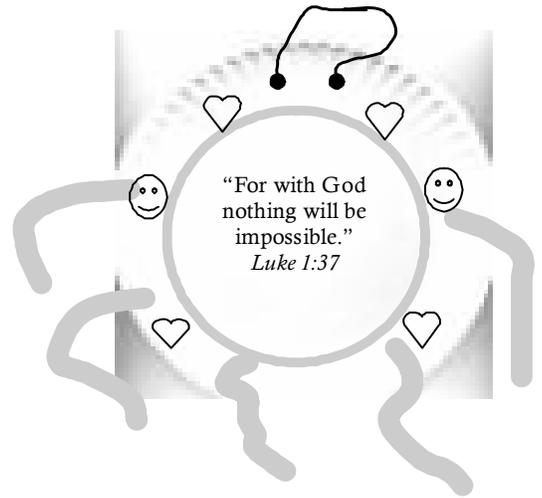
Oh, for a faith that will not shrink
Tho' pressed by many a foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
Of poverty or woe.

That will not murmur nor complain
Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain
Can lean upon its God. Amen.

Classroom Activity - Circle the pictures that Gideon and his 300 men used to win the battle over the enemy soldiers.



Classroom Art Activity - Help the children cut out the passage and glue to a paper plate. Decorate with markers, crepe paper streamers, glitter, etc. Attach yarn at the top for a hanger. Help the children memorize the passage.



“For with
God nothing
will be
impossible.”
Luke 1:37

