

Gideon

Judges 6-8



The Story

In the years that followed the death of Joshua, the children of Israel lost sight of the True God. They instead turned against God by worshiping false gods. One such false god was named Baal. Because of this great sin, the Lord allowed the enemies of His people, the Midianites and the Amalekites, 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.

That night the Lord told Gideon to take his father's oxen and tear down the altar of Baal that his village had erected. In the morning the town's people were very angry and came to Gideon's father to punish Gideon. Gideon's father said, "No", and the angry men left.

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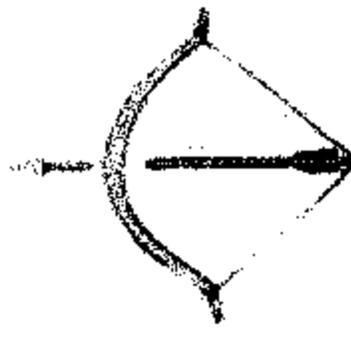
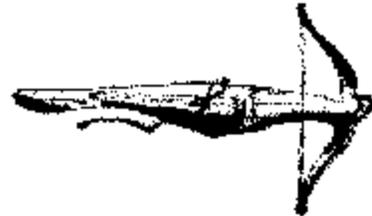
home. Lots of the men left and some stayed to fight. The Lord told Gideon again that his army was too large. This time Gideon told the men to go to the water and drink from it. Some men knelt on both knees and lapped up the water like a dog. Only three hundred of the men took cupped water into their hands and drank by taking their hands to their mouths. The Lord directed Gideon to take the 300 men and go meet the enemy.

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." The Lord suggested that if Gideon were afraid that he should go with his servant and listen to what the enemy was saying.

At midnight, Gideon gathered his 300 men and gave each man a pitcher which held fire inside and a trumpet. At the sound of 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 pursuing 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.

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



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

Passages

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

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

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

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.

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on both knees and lapped up the water like a dog. Only 300 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.

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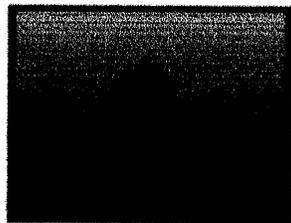
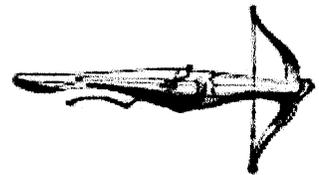
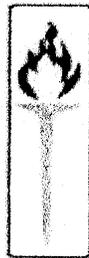
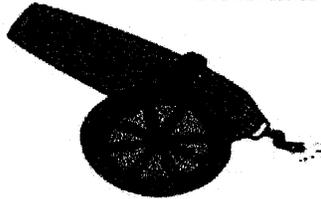
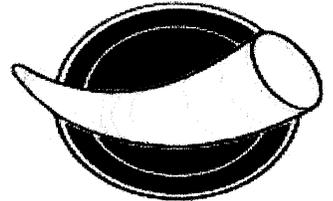
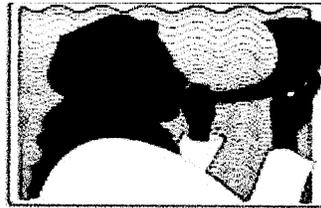
Activity One - Fill in the blanks with the words below.

Gideon ruler idols trumpet 300 signs

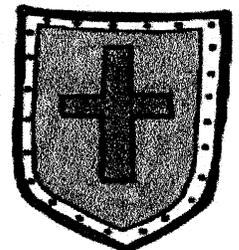
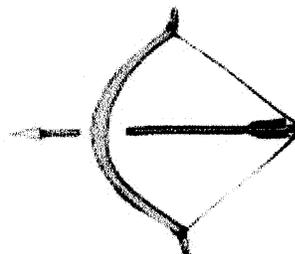
1. Israel sinned by worshiping _____.
2. God sent _____ to rescue Israel.
3. God gave Gideon _____ to reassure Gideon.
4. Gideon's army only had _____ men.
5. When Gideon blew his _____ his army shouted and waved their torches.
6. Israel asked Gideon to be their _____.

Activity Two -

Circle the items that Gideon and his 300 men used to win the battle over the enemy soldiers.



Darkness



Activity Three - Write (T) for True and (F) for False.

1. _____ God helps weak people become strong.
2. _____ God always keeps His promises.
3. _____ True strength is found in large armies and powerful weapons.
4. _____ God can and does perform miracles to help His believing children.

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.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens.

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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.

Gideon

Judges 6-8

" If God is for us, who can be against us? "
What does that mean?
Let's see how that passage will fit today's lesson.

Prayer

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The Story – Judges Chapters 6-8

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One day the Angel of the Lord appeared to a man named Gideon and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!" Gideon was frightened. He did not know that this was the Angel of the Lord. How did this Man find him? (Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress, which was low in a rock, almost like in a cave.) What did He want? The Angel told Gideon that God had chosen him to defeat the Midianites and the Amalekites. "How can I save Israel?"

Gideon asked. "I am the least in my father's house!" Gideon asked the Man for a sign that would tell him that this message was from God. Gideon asked the Angel to stay for a meal. A young goat and baked bread was prepared for the guest. When the meal was brought, the Angel told Gideon to place the food on the rock and pour the broth over the food. The Angel touched the meat and the bread with his staff, and fire came out of the rock and burned the meal. Then the Angel disappeared. Gideon realized then that the Man with whom he had been speaking was the Angel of the Lord.

That night the Lord told Gideon to take his father's oxen and tear down the altar of Baal that his village had erected. In the morning the town's people were very angry. They came to Gideon's father and demanded that he give them Gideon so that they could kill him. Joash, Gideon's father, told the town's people that if Baal was really a god, that he could defend himself against someone that breaks down



his altar. The men left Joash's home and called Gideon Jerubbaal.

Soon the enemies came again to the land of the Israelites. God told Gideon to prepare an army, but before doing so Gideon asked for two signs. First, he placed a fleece on the ground and asked God to allow the dew to be only on the 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 following morning everything was just as Gideon had asked.

Now Gideon called together an army. Thirty-two thousand men gathered to fight with Gideon, but God told Gideon his army was too large! At God's direction Gideon called his army together and told any man who was afraid of the upcoming battle to leave and return to his home. Twenty-two thousand men left and ten thousand stayed to fight. The Lord told Gideon again that his army was too large. This time again at God's direction, 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. 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 these 300 men and go meet the enemy.

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." The Lord suggested that if Gideon were afraid that he should go with his servant and listen to what the enemy was saying.

Gideon and his servant Purah crept down to the Midian camp and there listened to a dream that one of the soldiers had had. The soldier was retelling a friend about a dream where a round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into their camp. It hit a tent with such force that it

knocked the tent down. The friend explained that the barley loaf was Gideon and that the battle would be a victory for Gideon and his God.

At midnight, Gideon gathered his 300 men and gave each man a pitcher which held fire inside and a trumpet. At the sound of 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. Those that were left fled with Gideon's army pursuing them.

Gideon and his men, along with others of the children of Israel, chased their enemies and defeated them in battle.

The Israelites said to Gideon, "Rule over us because you saved us from the Midianites."

Gideon replied, "No, I will not rule over you. The LORD will rule over you." During Gideon's lifetime the children of Israel enjoyed many years of peace under the blessing of the Lord.

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

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. What did God do when the Children of Israel turned from obeying Him?
2. How many years of suffering did the children of Israel endure before they cried to the Lord in repentance?
3. To whom did the Angel of the Lord come?
4. What was the first sign that was given to Gideon?
5. What did God tell Gideon to destroy?
6. How did the townspeople react to this action?
7. What did Gideon's father suggest?
8. What were the next two signs sent to Gideon by God?
9. What did God say about Gideon's army?
10. How was the final selection made?
11. What did Gideon hear in the enemy camp?
12. What was Gideon's battle plan?
13. What did the enemy soldiers do when Gideon blew his trumpet?
14. What did the children of Israel ask Gideon to do?
15. How did Gideon answer Israel?

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

What God's Word Tells Us - Think about the following "Thought Problem".

We are to "walk by faith, not by sight!"

1. How did Gideon "walk by faith, not by sight"?
2. List some situations when we "walk by faith, not by sight" today:

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Psalm 33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

Hymn & Prayer - TLH #427 v. 1- 3, 7

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

In ev'ry condition - in sickness, in health,
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth,
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea
The Lord, the Almighty, thy strength e'er shall be.

"Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed;
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!" Amen.

Gideon

Judges 6-8

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3. To whom did the Angel of the Lord come?
4. Who is the Angel of the Lord? How do we know this?
5. What was the first sign of the that was given to Gideon?
6. What did God tell Gideon to destroy?
7. How did the townspeople react to this action?
8. What alternative action did Gideon's father suggest?
9. What was the next command given to Gideon by God?
10. What were the next two signs sent to Gideon by God?
11. What did God say about Gideon's army?
12. How was the final selection made?
13. How many soldiers were cut from the first count?
14. What did Gideon hear in the enemy camp?
15. What was Gideon's battle plan?
16. What did the enemy soldiers do when Gideon blew his trumpet?
17. What did the children of Israel ask Gideon to do?
18. How did Gideon answer Israel?

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We are to "walk by faith, not by sight!"

1. How did Gideon "walk by faith, not by sight"?
2. List some situations when we "walk by faith, not by sight" today:
3. Was it wrong of Gideon to ask for signs? Why?
4. What signs of God's presence can we expect today?
5. When else in the Old Testament did the Angel of the Lord appear to men? Why did the Angel come down to earth?

Passages

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"Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed;
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!" Amen.



STORY

Gideon - Judges 6:1-8:28

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, You appeared unto Gideon and chose him to set the Israelites free from the Midianite oppression. The deliverance of Israel depended, not on Gideon's abilities, but upon Your blessing. In the same way, you have chosen me to present the Gospel to these students, which sets them free from a much greater and more dangerous oppressor. Bless the teaching of this story with the power of Your Holy Spirit so that Your Word may have free course and accomplish Your purposes in the hearts of these children. May my feeble efforts bring glory to Your precious name. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Jerubaal - Let Baal plead - name given to Gideon after he destroyed the altar to Baal. When Baal worshipers asked his father to turn Gideon over to them, he replied: Let Baal do this himself.

Judges -- Leaders God raised up to deliver His people

Midianites - Originally descended from Abraham and Keturah, this nomadic tribe lived east of the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. Here the term includes more than one nationality (Amelekites and the People of the East). In this case, one could picture them as desert bandits.

Valley of Jezreel - Located south and west of the Sea of Galilee, the valley follows a small stream that empties into the Jordan River. It was a natural site for battles to be fought for two reasons: 1. Topography 2. An army needed to camp near water.

"The sword of the Lord and Gideon" - This battle cry meant that God was using Gideon to exact His justice upon the Midianite forces.

BACKGROUND

The period of the Judges was one of several very low points in the history of Israel. One problem was that the people failed to complete the task of driving the Canaanites out of the land. Also, after Joshua's death, the people had become spiritually careless in their prosperity, just as Moses had warned (Deut. 8:11ff).

To help His people, God used their enemies to chasten them. "Now these are the nations which the Lord left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan." (Judges 3:1)

POINTS OF INTEREST

- < Gideon was threshing grain in the winepress. Conditions were so bad that one could not risk threshing in the normal manner.
- < Gideon destroyed the altar to Baal (his father's) at night, for fear of the reaction it would bring from the community.
- < Gideon didn't understand why the Lord was chastening His people.
- < God gave Gideon several special signs: He consumed Gideon's sacrifice, caused the dew to behave against the laws of nature, allowed Gideon to overhear a discussion in the Midianite camp.
- < God made use of military strategy in the defeat of the Midianites and the capture of their leaders.
- < The men of Succoth and Penuel were too selfish to lend their support to Gideon's cause.
- < The golden ephod which Gideon made from the spoils of war, became the object of idolatry.

Gideon

OT

Teacher's Notes

Verses 6:1-10

- < For seven years the people of Israel lived in fear of the Midianites. Whenever the crops were ready for harvest, the Midianites would sweep through the land to plunder and destroy whatever they wanted. The country was thoroughly impoverished. People lived in caves and were forced to hide whatever they had from the Midianites. The scene is later used by Isaiah to depict a dark spiritual oppression into which the Light of the world would be born.
- < Isaiah 9:2-4: The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For you have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.
- < The Lord sent a prophet to tell the people why this was happening. His purpose was to convict them of their sin and lead them to repentance.

Verses 6:11-27

- < The Angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon as he threshed grain in the winepress. Gideon did not understand how the Lord could be with His people and still allow the Midianites to oppress them. When the LORD commissioned Gideon to lead the army against the Midianites, Gideon does a very natural thing: he looks at himself and confesses his own inability. “Who am I to lead the nation into battle?”
- < God confirmed His promise to Gideon by consuming the sacrifice which Gideon had prepared. This special sign confirmed the word which the Lord had spoken. This is the primary purpose of God’s miracles, (cf. Mark 16:20) to confirm God’s Word. Miracles do not produce faith. (There are many examples of unbelievers who witnessed the miracles of God, yet remained unbelievers -- Pharaoh, the Jewish leaders, etc.) God’s Word produces and strengthens faith; miracles confirm that Word and are sometimes called, the visible Word.
- < Gideon’s response was to build an altar to Jehovah, naming it: The Lord-Shalom.
- < That night, at God’s direction, Gideon dismantled his father’s altar to Baal, which included an Asherah pole. With the wood from this symbol of Baal worship, Gideon would fire the sacrifice to the true God of Israel.

Verses 6:28-35

- < The reaction which Gideon expected from the community became reality in the morning. When they learned that Gideon was to blame, they immediately went to Joash and ordered him to hand over his son. Joash had an interesting answer: If Baal is really a god - shouldn’t he be able to defend himself? From this, Gideon receives his second name: Jerubaal - Let Baal Plead for himself.
- < The combined Midianite forces gathered in the Valley of Jezreel. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and used him to call the troops together for battle. Soldiers were summoned from the northern tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali. One should probably not envision soldiers in the sense of well armed and trained warriors. The picture of farmers coming with pitchforks, scythes, knives, homemade swords, and any other instruments that might be used for battle, is probably more accurate.

Verses 6:36-40

- < Who could blame Gideon for requesting a special sign from the Lord? We know how difficult it is to trust the Lord when what we see with our eyes is the opposite of what we are to believe. In Gideon's case, his own life was at stake.
- < God is merciful and understanding. He knows our frame. He answered Gideon's request not once, but twice. A full bowl of water was wrung from the fleece the first night; the fleece was absolutely dry the next.

Verses 7:1-25

- < The details leading up to battle seem quite straightforward. The emphasis is on the fact that the smaller the army, the more unlikely the victory would be. In the end, the odds were so stacked against Gideon, that it would take the Lord to grant them victory.
- < From 32,000 to 300 is a striking change when one works it out on paper - to see the difference in the number of actual people would have been staggering.
- < Why did the Lord sort the people by how they drank from the water? There are two answers; both are related. One suggests that those who lifted the water with their hands wouldn't take the time to kneel down; the second is that the most vigilant soldiers wouldn't put their faces down to the water, but would want to keep an eye open for the enemy.
- < Gideon and his servant are granted a final confirmation of the Lord's plan. This time, it comes from a conversation they overhear from the Midianite camp.
- < The choice of weapons seems odd to us in our day and age. Several historical factors may shed light on how brilliant this choice turned out to be. For one thing, it would seem that very few soldiers would actually carry torches and trumpets, just as only a handful of soldiers during the Civil War would carry a fife or a drum. Secondly, because it is nighttime (midnight - at the changing of guards), and because there are different nationalities camped together (and also, there are no uniforms), the Midianites would awake to the sound of hundreds of trumpets and the sight of hundreds of lights. Their first thought would not be: there are only 300 men. Seeing 300 torches and hearing the shouts and trumpets of 300 men, they would more likely think that there were hundreds of thousands of soldiers. In the confusion of darkness, stranger would have to turn against stranger; it would be kill or be killed.
- < In the same way, the Lord used military strategies throughout the history of His people - not because He needed strategy, but because His miracles often accompany ordinary means. (cf. The battles at Ai, Jericho, etc.)
- < The Midianite army would self-destruct. Those who survived the midnight massacre, headed east toward the Jordan River, hoping to get across before the pursuing Israelites caught them.
- < Gideon sent word ahead to the people of that area, telling them to draw arms and attack the fleeing Midianites. They captured two of the Midianite princes, Oreb and Zeeb. The locations at which these men were killed were named accordingly.

Verses 8:1-21

- < Once they become involved in chasing the Midianites (and had some success), the men of Ephraim are angry that Gideon has not called upon them sooner. (Their interest is probably due to gaining both the glory of victory and the spoils of war.) They take Gideon to task for neglecting to enlist their support. Gideon's answer is very diplomatic: he commends them for the glorious job of killing Zeeb and Oreb.
- < As his tiny army reached the Jordan river, the men were hungry and exhausted. Requesting food supplies from the locals, Gideon is surprised to see how selfish the people of Succoth really are. They aren't willing to risk their food on an army so small, especially when there is no guarantee of victory. The people at Penuel do the same thing. Therefore Gideon promises to teach them a lesson on his return trip.
- < Once again Gideon uses a bit of strategy in attacking what's left of the Midianite forces. When they feel secure, he attacks, not from the west where they would expect, but from the east. He routed the enemy and captured their kings, Zebah and Zalmunna.
- < On his way back to Israel, Gideon caught a young man from Succoth and interviewed him about his hometown people. He got a list of the city elders who were responsible for withholding food from him. No doubt, he kept the two Midianite kings alive, simply as proof to the people of Succoth that he was victorious as he said. Then, he chastened the leaders of Succoth, giving them a few lessons with briars and thorns. At Penuel, Gideon gave another lesson. There, he destroyed their tower and killed the men of the city.

Verses 8:22-28

The crescent-shaped ornaments taken from the Midianites were collected, melted and formed into an ephod, which was, no doubt, patterned after the ephod worn by the high priest. It would seem best to say that this was done in order to attribute this great victory to the Lord. As time passed, this became a matter of superstition and was a snare even to Gideon and his house.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, help me to trust You at all times. When there is trouble in my life, help me to remember Gideon and grant me the kind of faith that You gave to him. Use me as You used Gideon, by giving me opportunities to share my faith with the people around me and by blessing my gifts for the work of the Church. Help me to remember that Your powerful Gospel is the weapon that sets people free from the oppression of sin, death, and hell. Thank You for being my Savior and for bringing me to faith. Amen.

PRESENTATION

With so much material in this story, the teacher will need to choose which items to present, based upon the age and attention span of the class. The focal point is obvious: the routing of the Midianites with a tiny army of 300 men. The primary purpose of this lesson is to show how the LORD delivers His people.

APPLICATIONS

God chastens His people because He loves them. He allowed the Israelites to suffer poverty from the hands of the Midianites because they had fallen into sin (evidenced by the altars to Baal, etc.). The consequences of their unbelief would be far worse than any temporal pain they might endure. Because He loves us, God chastens His people today. Scripture says, "We are chastened of the Lord, lest we perish with the world."

God sets a limit to the chastening and removes it when it has achieved His desired effect. Seven years was the time frame for the Midianite oppression, then God delivered His people.

God usually performs His deliverance through ordinary means, but also lets us see that the deliverance is His doing and not ours.

Faith is needed at all times in life, but especially in those times when what we see with our eyes is at odds with what we believe. Courage was required when the army was at 32,000. Greater courage was required as the numbers were reduced. Many times God leaves us with nothing but His promises to depend upon. This is really how it should be.

We should be ready to follow the Lord without fear, knowing that He is far greater than any enemy we could ever face.

We should be ready to support the work of preaching the Gospel, confident that His Word will achieve His purposes. Unlike the men of Succoth and Penuel, we should not put ourselves and our interests ahead of serving the Lord.

The parallel between Gideon's victory and the preaching of the Gospel is striking. Today, we engage in the work of God's kingdom with the unlikely weapon of the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. By outward appearance, the Gospel hardly seems capable of the task and is considered foolishness by the world. Yet, the Gospel continues to conquer. Souls continue to be set free from spiritual oppression and are saved eternally. In this way, the children can do something that is similar to what Gideon had done, by sharing their faith and supporting the work of the Gospel.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Luke 1:37 With God nothing will be impossible.

Hebrews 12:6 Whom the Lord loves, He chastens.

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

Middle

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.

Psalms 37:5 Commit your way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

Upper

Hebrews 12:5-6 My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him. For whom the Lord loves He chastens.

Psalms 33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

Psalms 46:1-2 God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

HYMN CHOICES

“Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink” TLH #396

“How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord” TLH #427

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.

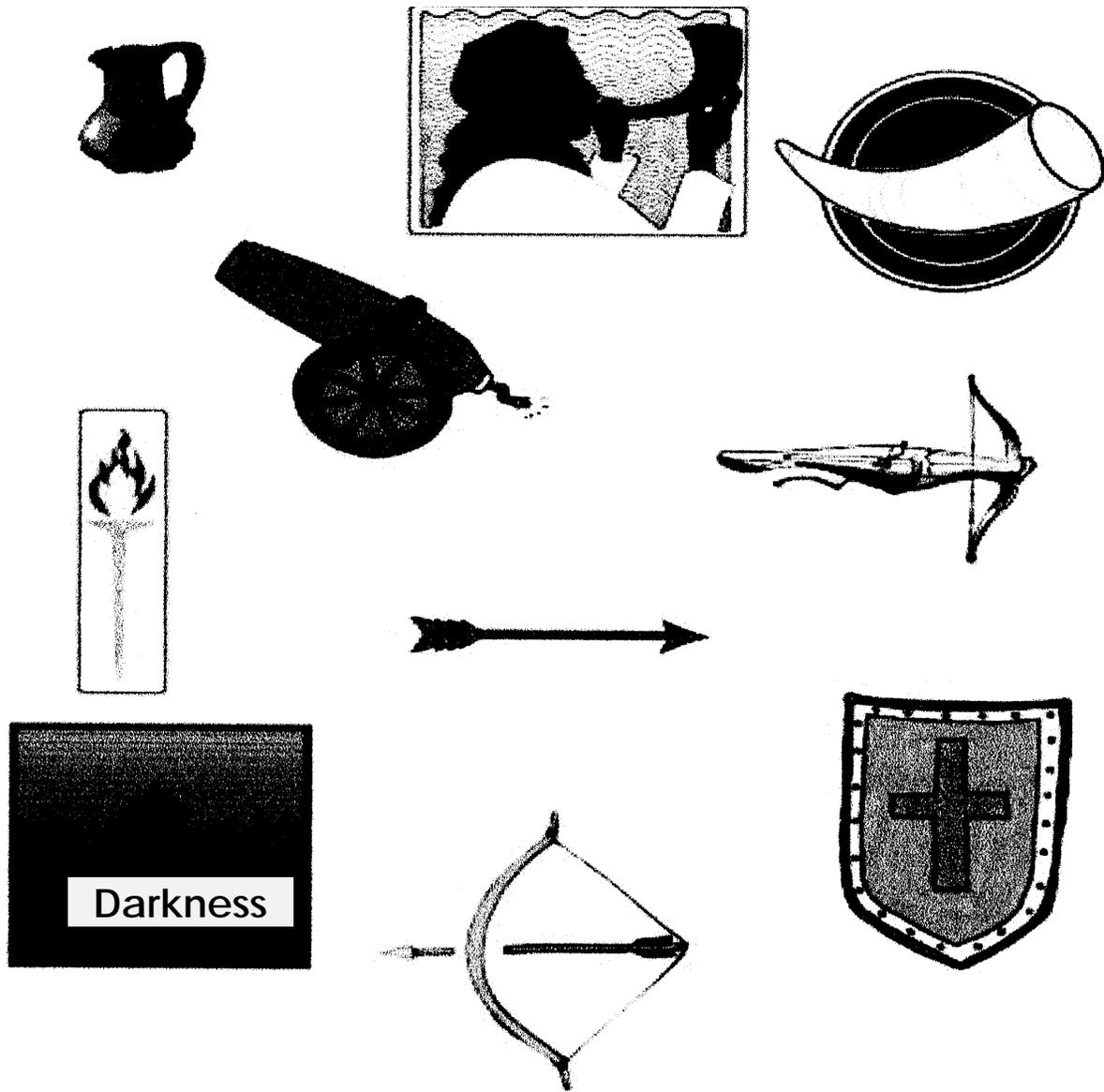


Hymn & Prayer - TLH #396 v. 1, 2

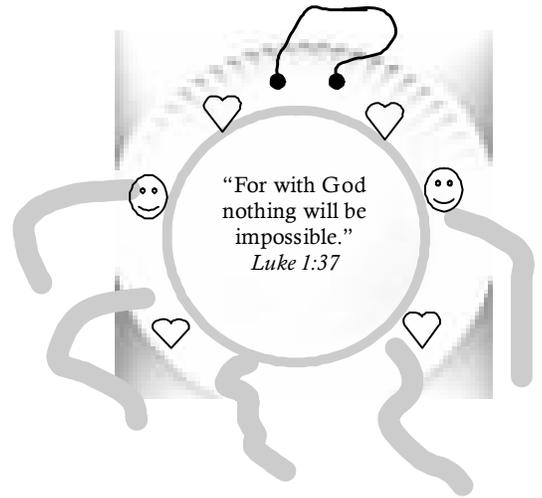
Oh, for a faith that will not shrink
Tho' pressed by many a foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
Of poverty or woe.

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

