

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.

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 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

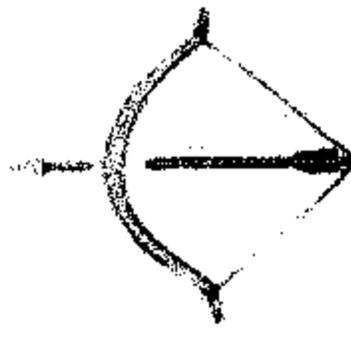
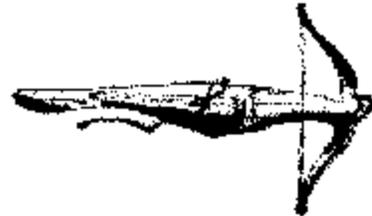
home. Lots of the men left and some stayed to fight. The Lord told Gideon again that his army was too large. This time Gideon told the men to go to the water and drink from it. Some men knelt on both knees and lapped up the water like a dog. Only three hundred of the men took cupped water into their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

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.