

GRADES
K-6

GIDEON & HIS 300 MEN

Printable Lesson Kit



MIGHTY MESSAGES

THANK YOU

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GIDEON & HIS 300 MEN

LESSON OVERVIEW

GIDEON & HIS 300 MEN MIGHTY MESSAGES

This Lesson on Gideon defeating the Midianites with only 300 men shows how God loves to use small things to defeat big things. It ought to give children plenty of confidence in God's protection—and his interest in them—as they go through their own life battles.

How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Printable Craft
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Bowls, one for each student (game)
- Enough water to fill all the bowls halfway (game)
- Paper towels for cleanup (game)
- Drinking straws (game)
- White paper/Cardstock
- Brad Fasteners
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

GIDEON & HIS 300 MEN

SCRIPTURE & LESSON

PASSAGES FROM JUDGES

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:



Judges 6:1-16

The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. ² Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. ³ Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. ⁴ They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. ⁵ They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. ⁶ Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.

⁷ When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, ⁸ he sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ⁹ I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.”

¹¹ The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”

¹³ “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

¹⁴ The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

¹⁵ “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

¹⁶ The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”



Judges 7:1-15 excerpts

Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. ² The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’

³ Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

⁴ But the Lord said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

⁵ So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.” ⁶ Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

⁷ The Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.” ⁸ So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. ⁹ During that night the Lord said to Gideon, “Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands.

¹⁶ Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.

¹⁹ Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. ²⁰ The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!” ²¹ While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.

²² When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath. ²³ Israelites from Naphtali, Asher and all Manasseh were called out, and they pursued the Midianites.

Questions for Children about Gideon

1. The people of Israel had turned away from God and had started worshipping idols. What do people lose when they turn away from God? ***Their connection to him; great guidance, great advice, God's lovingkindness.*** See verses 6:3-5. The Midianites were big and ruthless warriors. What did they do to Israel? ***Ate all their crops and killed all their animals.***
2. After God called Gideon to lead battles, Gideon revealed something startling about himself. See verse 6:15. What did he reveal? ***His clan is the weakest in Manasseh (a small tribe), and he the least, or youngest, in his family.*** God often chooses smaller or younger or less abled people to do big things for him. Why do you think that is? ***God wants everyone to see him at work. The biggest, strongest, smartest guys could say they did things without God's help.***
3. God did not allow Gideon's 10,000 men to stay to defeat the Midianites. Why not? ***Same as the above answer: They would say they did it themselves and God wanted people to see his power so they would know to rely on it and not on idols.*** To pick men based on how they drank water is almost silly. Why do you think God did this? ***It was a really random method of picking people. God did it as another way to show that Israel's strength came from him. Even picking men by the silliest methods did not mean they could lose the war against this huge army.***



TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

God loves to use little people to cause big things. This is true often in Bible stories. Joseph, one of the 12 sons of Jacob, was chosen to lead the family to safety in spite of being second-youngest. Moses had been a shy sheep herder for around 60 years when God called him to lead the Exodus. King David had seven older brothers, any of whom should have been king before him. Jesus was born in a stable.

God shows his power through our weakness. When we don't have the strength, he does! We can rely on him to bring his will about. God also uses little people because he loves humility. He never got angry when a person he chose said, "Why ME, Lord?"

God could use us at any time. One time, the prophet Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And Isaiah said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Let's always be ready to hear from God about doing something mighty. God can even use children to do great things! Let's always be ready to say, "SEND ME!"



GIDEON & HIS 300 MEN

PRINTABLE CRAFT



MATERIALS:

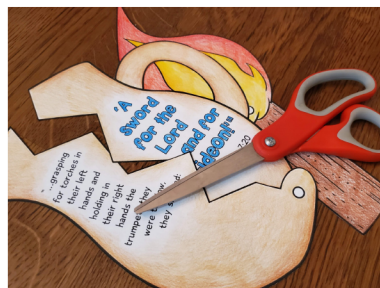
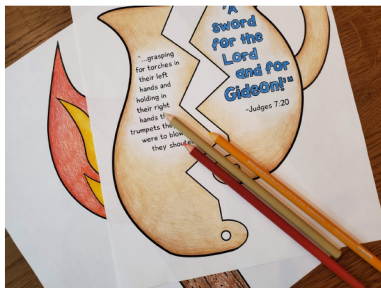
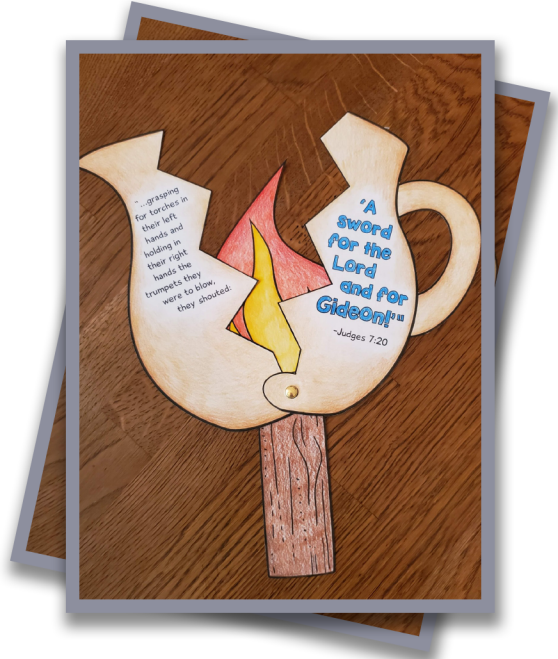
- Gideon Printable Craft File (two pages)
- White Paper or Cardstock
- Coloring Utensils
- Scissors
- Round Head fasteners

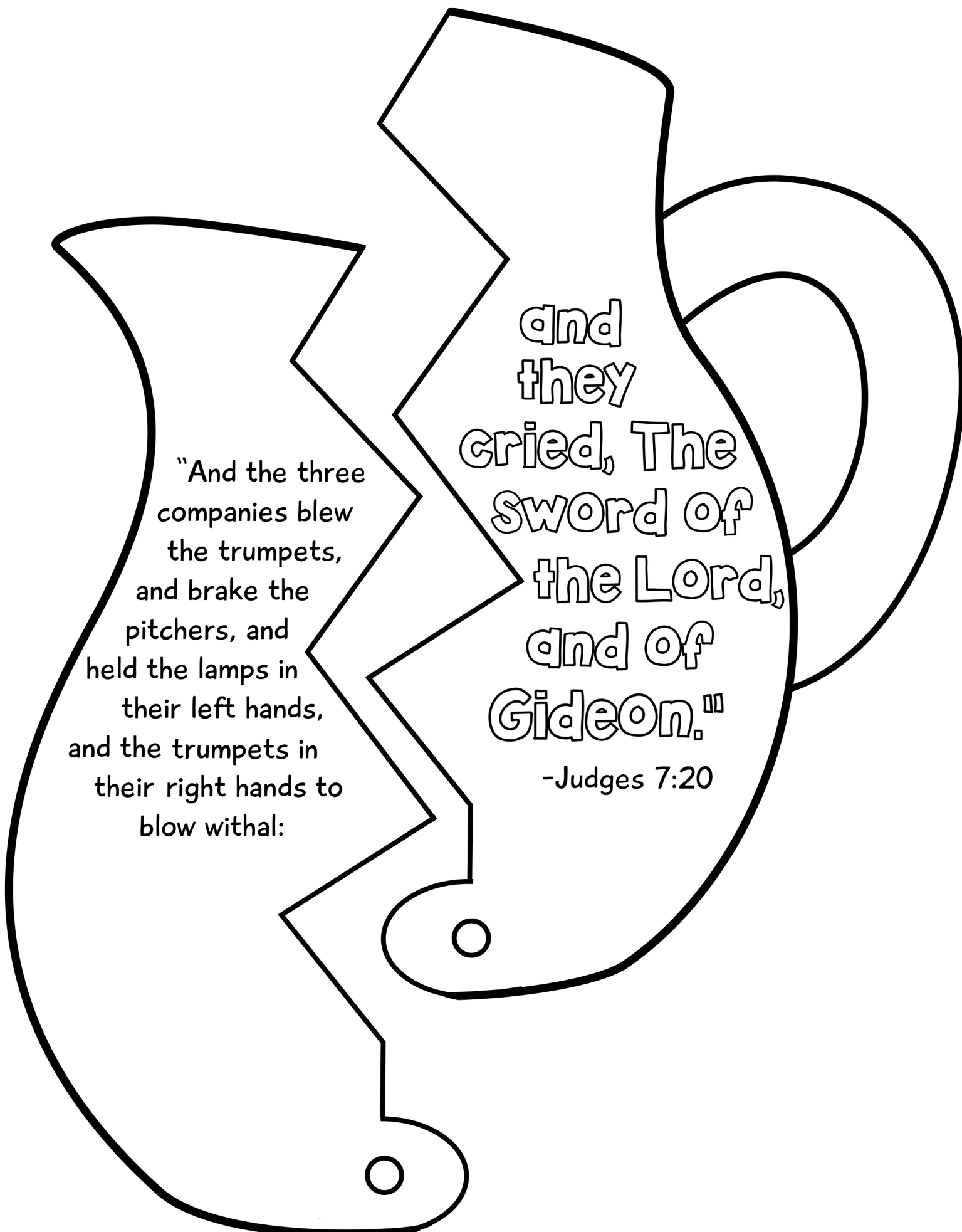
PREPARATION:

- Print one copy of each page per student

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Color pages as desired
2. Cut out pitcher pieces and torch and piece
3. Layer the pieces together, torch on the bottom and pitcher pieces on top, carefully aligning the designated hole for the fastener
4. Using the round head fastener, punch through all pieces at hole and fasten at the back
5. Open and Close pitcher pieces to reveal or hide the torch.





"And the three
companies blew
the trumpets,
and brake the
pitchers, and
held the lamps in
their left hands,
and the trumpets in
their right hands to
blow withal:

and
they
cried, The
Sword of
the Lord,
and of
Gideon."

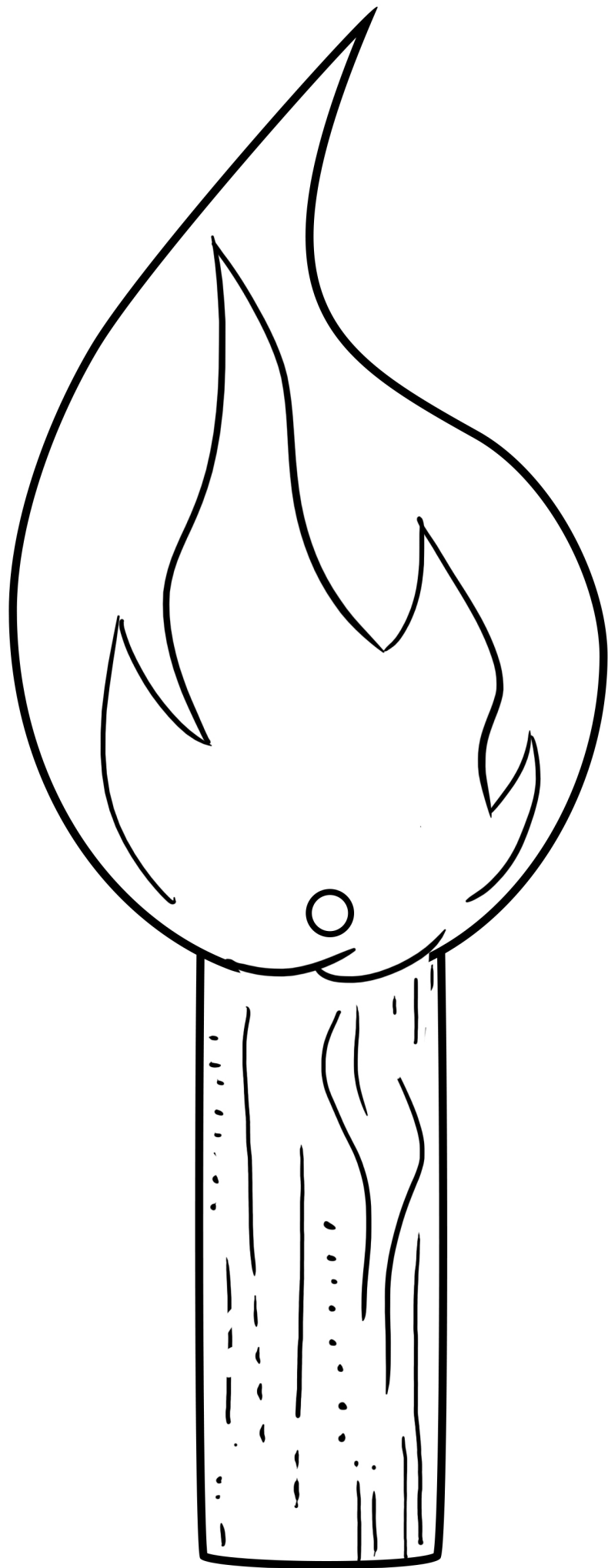
-Judges 7:20

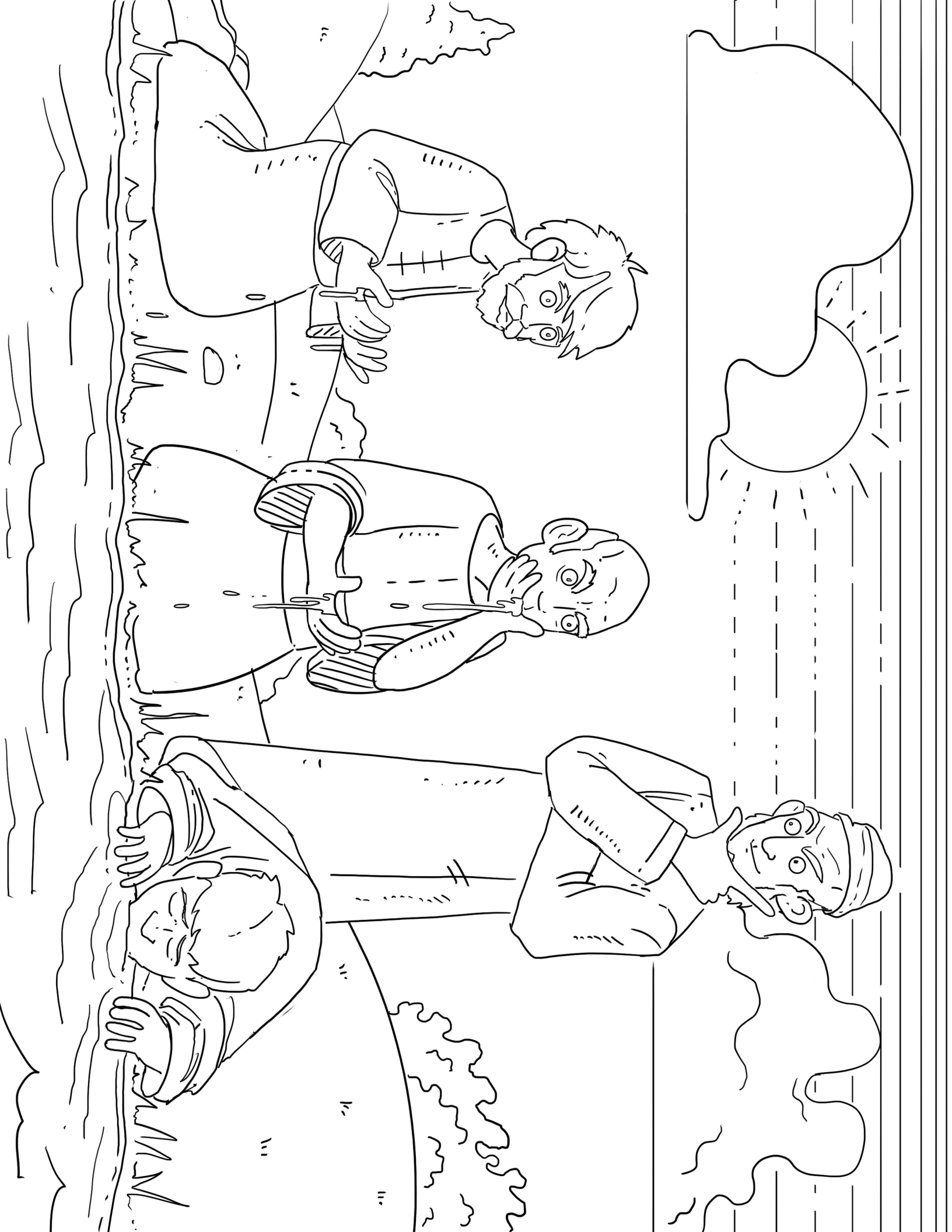


“...grasping
for torches in
their left
hands and
holding in
their right
hands the
trumpets they
were to blow,
they shouted:

‘A
Sword
for the
Lord
and for
Gideon!’”

-Judges 7:20





LAP-LIKE-DOGS RACE

A set of bowls filled with water starts this game of being Gideon's army. It's a little messy, as kids get to decide whether to stick their face in the bowl to drink or use a straw. It will bring them a step closer to Gideon's army, to see that sometimes the little things don't matter - only a big God does!



MATERIALS:

- Bowls, one for each student
- Enough water to fill all the bowls halfway
- Paper towels for cleanup
- Drinking straws

Preparation

1. Fill the bowls with the water and place one in front of each student

INTRODUCTION

Let's pretend we're in Gideon's army. You can drink your water by sticking your face down to the bowl or using a drinking straw. Once you have started, you can't change your plan! You have to finish as you started. The first person to consume all their water wins.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. When you say, "Go!" students will start drinking with the method they choose.
2. The first student to finish his bowl should raise his or her hand. Don't stop the race until you have a first, second, and third-place winner.
3. Use paper towels for cleanup.

Conclusion

Does it really matter whether you drank with your face in the bowl or with a straw? Face in the bowl is more fun—at least at first. But for all of you, the water is in the same place—in your stomach! It really didn't matter how Gideon's men drank water. One way wasn't more "soldier-like," or courageous, as the other. It only mattered that God was in charge of the battle. When God is in charge, we all win!



WORD SEARCH

God uses all sorts of people to accomplish his will, and he loves using the little guy! Below are some traits of people whom God uses! How many do you have? Find them all in the word search and circle those that apply to YOU!

S	O	E	M	N	T	I	M	I	D	U	R	Y	S	K	N
N	C	O	N	F	U	S	E	D	N	N	O	Z	K	C	H
U	U	J	J	V	N	A	I	V	E	E	I	X	V	E	U
F	U	N	M	K	G	M	K	G	R	D	W	X	Y	D	M
B	E	N	C	G	S	M	A	L	L	U	D	E	O	G	B
Y	Q	A	S	O	F	D	N	A	A	C	O	P	A	Y	L
L	U	P	R	E	O	E	E	R	E	A	U	A	F	K	E
E	A	V	Q	F	E	R	I	H	T	T	B	B	H	L	S
H	R	J	N	Y	U	I	D	S	R	E	T	W	F	Z	Q
O	R	Y	E	O	Q	L	N	I	T	D	F	E	U	K	Y
P	E	Y	R	U	X	B	G	G	N	Y	U	Y	T	L	I
E	L	U	V	N	G	Y	S	S	F	A	L	L	E	I	S
L	S	X	O	G	U	S	H	O	R	T	T	M	R	P	U
E	O	T	U	E	S	C	Y	J	H	M	O	E	Q	B	Z
S	M	F	S	S	B	D	L	D	O	H	A	J	D	P	R
S	E	Y	S	T	U	N	B	E	L	I	E	V	I	N	G

Words to Find:

HUMBLE
SMALL
FEARFUL
TIMID
YOUNGEST

UNEDUCATED
DOUBTFUL
QUARRELSOME
EDGY
FEISTY

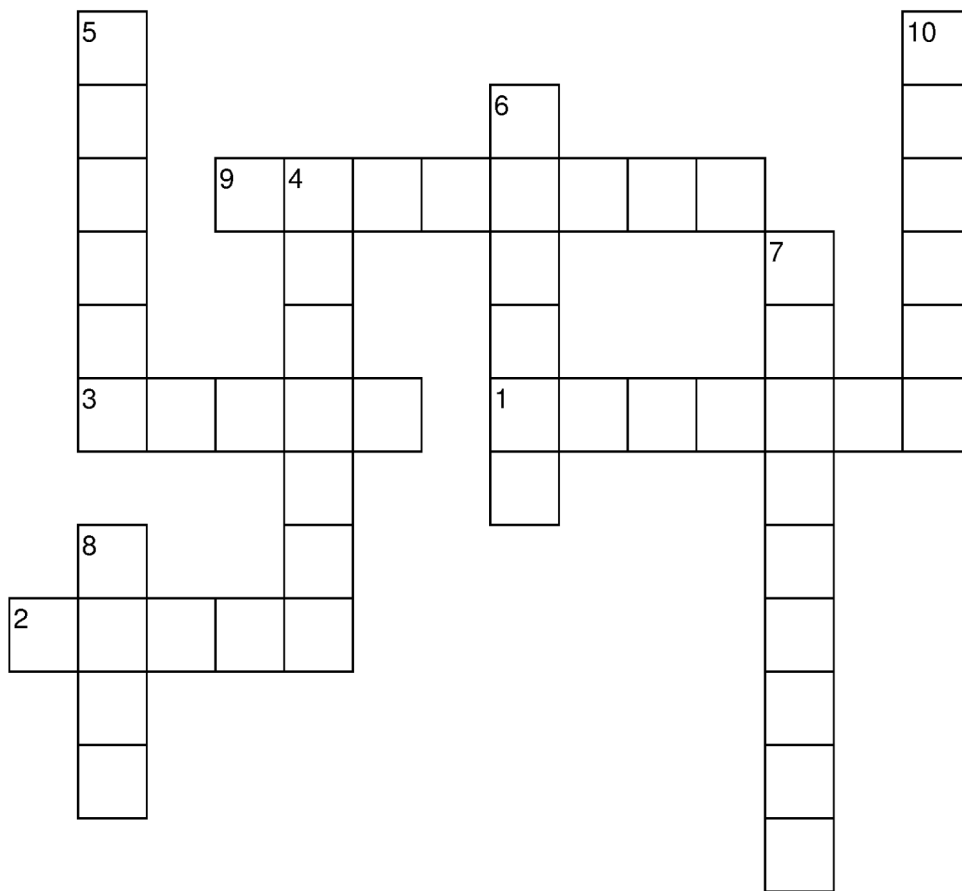
NERVOUS
NAÏVE
HOPELESS
UNCOORDINATED
UNSEEING

UNBELIEVING
SHORT
HOMELY
WEAK
CONFUSED

GIDEON & HIS 300 MEN

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use your At-A-Glance Sheet, Gideon and All the Judges of Israel, to find out more about this amazing period and to fill in the puzzle below.



Across

1. Name of the first judge of Israel
2. Order of Gideon among the 15 judges
3. Last judge of Israel
9. The kings got people in trouble by encouraging this sin

Down

4. The only female judge of Israel
5. Judges follows this book in the Bible
6. The judge whose power was in his long hair
7. Evil judge that killed 70 relatives to try to be a king
8. The Era of the Judges ended because the people wanted this
10. Likely author of this book

GIDEON & HIS 300 MEN

PARENT HANDOUT



Scriptures to Read: Judges 6:1-16



This Week We Learned About ...

...Gideon, of the Book of Judges, defeating the Midianites with only 300 men. It showed how God loves to use small things to defeat big things. It ought to give children plenty of confidence in God's protection—and his interest in them—as they go through their own life battles.



✓ Questions for Kids:

1. What did the angel of the Lord say to Gideon? **A. God is with you.**
2. Gideon complained that he is the _____ in his family? **A. least**
3. Gideon also said that his clan was the _____ in his tribe. **A. Weakest**

✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

Gideon felt discouraged because he didn't see a way to win the battle. Talk about a time when you felt discouraged or hopeless about a situation.

Tell of a time when you did something brave or accomplished something you didn't think you could? How do you think God helped you in that moment?

Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1



For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13



Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13

GIDEON & HIS 300 MEN

AT-A-GLANCE

Gideon & All the Judges of Israel

Gideon was a judge of Israel. There were 15 judges, and Gideon was the sixth.

Who the Judges were: The Judges ruled Israel in its earliest years as a nation. They considered God their king. The era of the Judges lasted from 1350 BC to 1050 BC. Their names in order were Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Abimelech, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson, Eli, Samuel.

Placement: The Book of Judges follows the Book of Joshua in the Bible. It is #7 in the order of Bible books. Joshua had led the army to invade the Promised Land and capture it after the Exodus. At the end of Joshua, the land is divided among the 12 tribes of Israel. Then the era of the Judges begins.



AUTHOR:

Prophet Samuel (most likely)



DATE BOOK WAS WRITTEN:

Around 1050 BC

Other Famous Stories Included in the Book of Judges:

- Judge Deborah and Barack defeat their enemies at Canaan (Judges 4)
- Delilah deceives Samson and steals his strength (Judges 16)

Most Famous Verse in Judges:

So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man." - Judges 16:17 (Samson)

Important Points about the Book:

- During those 300 years, Israel was served by a series of 15 judges. Some were very good, like Deborah and Samuel. Some were very evil, like Abimelech who had 70 of his half-brothers killed in a conspiracy to become king.
- The judges often made poor, unethical choices because they didn't seek God for their decisions but did things on their own. However, they had God as their king, which kept them out of deep trouble.
- The period ended because the people wanted a king. God warned them through the heartbroken prophet Samuel, but they didn't listen. The kings got them in lots of trouble with idolatry.

Lookup: 1 Samuel 16:6-13. Write down the last line in verse 7.

Lookup: Acts 15:8. Write it down.

Question: We are often drawn to what's biggest, strongest, priciest, prettiest, etc. Why doesn't God do that, and what can we do to see the world more like he does?

Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Ask God to give you wisdom, through the Holy Spirit, to judge situations and seeing into hearts. Use your own words:

GIDEON & HIS 300 MEN

QUIZ



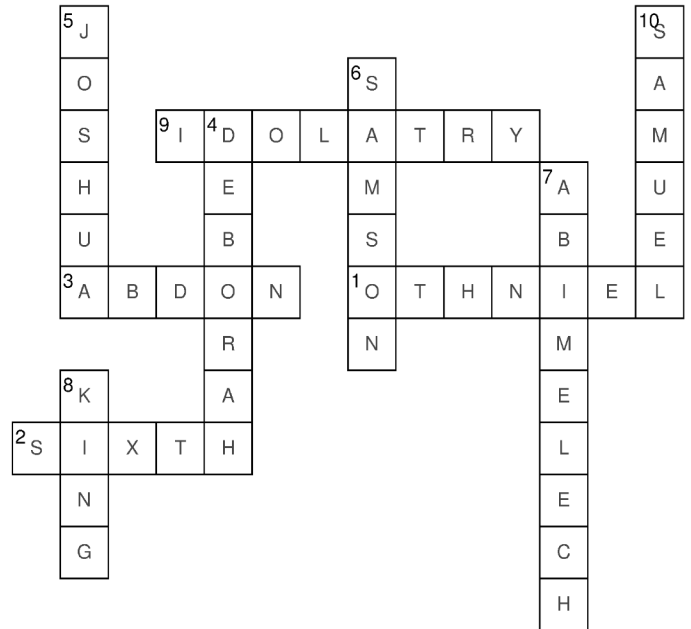
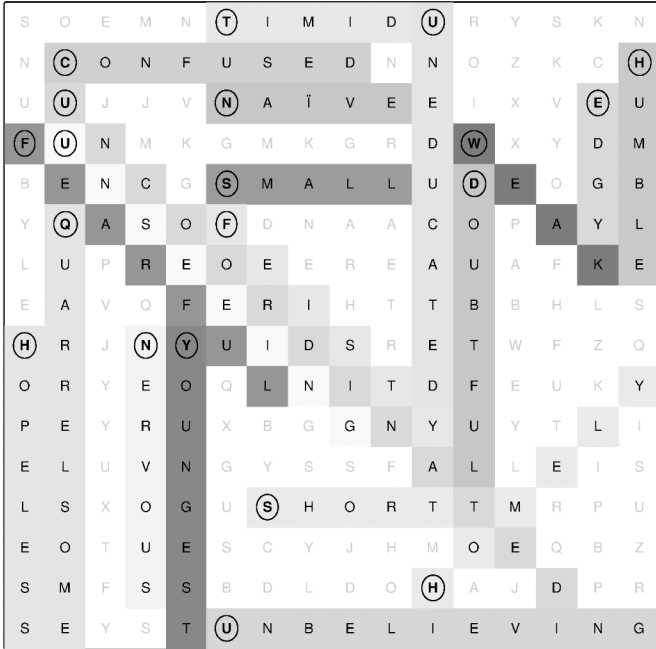
Instructions: Fill in the blanks from the scriptures about Gideon using an NIV Bible for lookups.

FILL IN THE BLANKS ABOUT GIDEON

1. The Midianite army came up on Israel's livestock and their tents like swarms of these (Judges 6:5):
_____.
2. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty.
_____." (Judges 6:12)
3. Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the _____ in Manasseh, and I am the _____ in my family." (Judges 6:15)
4. The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none _____ (Judges 6:16)
5. "You have too many _____. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own _____ has saved me.' (Judges 7:2)
6. The Lord told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their _____ as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink." (Judges 7:5)
7. Three _____ of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. (Judges 7:6)
8. While each man held his position around the camp, all the _____ ran, crying out as they fled. (Judges 7:21)

GIDEON & HIS 300 MEN

ANSWER KEY



Quiz Answers:

- Alive
- Hundred
- Least
- Locusts
- Men
- Midianites
- Strength
- Tongues
- Warrior
- Weakest

A hand in a brown sleeve holds a sword, pointing its tip towards the title text. The background features a large blue moon and silhouettes of soldiers with spears.

GIDDEON & HIS 300 MEN

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

NAME: _____

DATE: _____