

Gideon Obeyed God----LifeGroup Lesson for July 5th

Scripture Reference: Judges 6:11-40; 7:1-22

Preschool Life Point: People can choose to obey God.

School Age Life Point: People can choose to obey God.

July Memory Verse (Preschool): We will obey God. Joshua 24:24

July Memory Verse (School Age): Help me understand your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart. Psalm 119:34.

Bible Story:

A group of people called the Midianites was causing trouble for the Israelite people. For seven years the Midianites ruled over the Israelites. They would destroy their crops. The Israelites prayed to God and asked Him for help. The Israelites hid in the mountains.

One day Gideon was threshing wheat in his hiding place when an angel of God visited him. "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!" the angel said. "You will save your people from the Midianites."

Gideon answered, "How can I save Israel? My family is poor. I am the youngest in my family?"

"I will be with you," God promised. "You will strike down the Midianites as if they were only one man."

Gideon gathered 32,000 men, but God said, "You have too many soldiers. Tell those who are afraid to go home." Many men left, and only 10,000 stayed to fight.

God said, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water and watch how they drink. Place in one group the men who scoop up the water with their hands and lap it with their tongues like dogs. Place those who kneel to drink straight from the water in another group." Gideon obeyed God. Only 300 men drank with their hands to their mouths. God told Gideon, "I will help you defeat the Midianites with these 300 men. Send the rest home."

God helped Gideon know what to do. God told Gideon to give every man a trumpet and an empty pitcher with a torch inside. Gideon directed the men to surround the enemy camp. It was late at night and very dark. When Gideon blew his trumpet, the men broke the pitchers, blew their trumpets, and shouted, "For the Lord and for Gideon!"

The Midianites were terrified. God confused the Midianites and they began to fight one another and run away. The battle was won! Gideon obeyed God and saved his people.

Review Questions (School Age):

- **Who called Gideon a might warrior?** An angel
- **What did the angel say Gideon would do?** Save his people, the Israelites, from the Midianites
- **How big was Gideon's army at first?** 32,000 men
- **How many soldiers remained with Gideon?** 300 men
- **Which men did God tell Gideon to keep for battle?** The ones who drank with their hands to their mouths
- **What items did Gideon's men carry with them?** Trumpets, torches and pitchers
- **What happened when Gideon and his men shouted?** God confused the Midianites. They began to fight one another and run away.

Hands on Ideas:

- **Make a torch.** Using items around your house like empty paper towel roll, construction paper, tissue paper, etc to make a torch like what Gideon's army used in battle.
- **Verse tower.** Gather blocks from around your house. Put tape on them and write one word per block of the memory verse. Build a tower out of the memory verse.
- **Activity Pages:** There are links in your email or the Facebook group to print these pages.