

TIGARD COVENANT KIDS'
Sunday School Online Lesson Plan
May 2020

Gideon's Impossible Army

Dear Parents,

After Joshua died (and for about the next 400 years), the Israelites found themselves **repeatedly** caught up in a cycle of disobedience to God (which always brought them great suffering) until they were desperate enough to cry out for God's help. And *lo and behold*, God (because of His faithful love for His people) would **repeatedly** respond with a rescue plan that would bring them to repentance, at least for awhile... until the next time they rebelled against God.

Sound familiar? That's exactly what I do when I surround myself with walls of fear and worry. I forget about all the times He's rescued me from despair, as I continually fuss and fret, complain and suffer. And only then comes the cry for help, the conviction and eventual peace ... *but of my own doing*, I will remain as predictable as the Israelites until I **fully** grasp the wisdom of Proverbs 3:5-6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, **and in all your ways**, submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.* If I truly want Him to direct my paths toward His peace and joy, then my spiritual assignment is clear: go to God **first** with my concern (instead of jumping on my wild steed), **submit** myself to Him in all ways, then **wait** upon the One who longs to show me His plan for my life.

To God be the Glory!

Leslie Gertner, Co-Director of Children's Ministry

References: God' Word; [Amazing Stories for Young Believers](#) by Dave Strehler

Materials Needed: Tablet/Computer and Bible

BEFORE WE GET STARTED, GOD WANTS TO TELL YOU SOMETHING:

"I love you with an everlasting love because you are a part of me. I created you and breathed life into your lungs. You are not an accident. I know everything about you... when you sit down, and when you stand up, when you laugh and when you cry. You are more important to me than you will ever know, and I have great plans for your future. I will never stop doing good to you. I am for you and never against you. I loved you so much that I sent my only son Jesus to be your savior. You are my special child and your names are stamped on my heart for all eternity." Love from your father in Heaven.

INTRODUCTION

Last week we learned how excited the Israelites were when Joshua and his army conquered the city of Jericho. There were other battles they had to fight as well, but with the help of the Lord, the Israelites lived comfortably and peacefully in the land God promised them and had since been named **Israel**.

They were content while obeying God's laws, but when Joshua died at age 113, EVERYTHING CHANGED. The Israelites had started mixing with people who worshiped idols, and they gradually began to live very wicked lives, but there was a HUGE consequence for their disobedience to God. God became angry, and He allowed another group of very cruel people called the Midianites to come into their land and rule over them. For 7 years the Midianites ruined their crops and took their animals until the Israelites had no choice but to live in caves and eventually starve to death. It was at that point they became so desperate that they called on God for help. **And guess what?** God came to their rescue AGAIN just like He had so many times before.

Let's watch this video to see who God sent to save the Israelites from the Midianites:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U68cIMZSgvQ>

QUESTIONS

1. What was the name of the man that God chose to fight the Midianites? **(Gideon)**.
2. Did Gideon have any experience being a soldier? **(No)**
3. Did Gideon ask God to perform some miracles to prove to him that God was with him? **(Yes)**
4. When Gideon agreed to fight the Midianites, how many men were in his army? **(30,000)**
5. The Lord told Gideon that the army was too big, so what did Gideon say to the men that caused 20,000 of them to go home? **(If you are afraid, then go home).**
6. How many men were left? **(10,000)**
7. The Lord told Gideon that the army was still too big, so God told Gideon to take them all down to the water. Why? **(because if they lapped the water like dogs, they had to go home).**
8. How many men were left in the army after that? **(300)**
9. What did the 300 Israelite soldiers carry with them when they fought the battle? **(Clay jars with burning torches inside and a trumpet to blow).**
10. When the Midianites heard the trumpets and saw the fires, what did they do? **(They started fighting and killing each other and then ran away, and Gideon ordered all the Israelites to attack.)**

CONCLUSION

Gideon did things **God's way**, and his small army won a battle against 132,000 Midianites! Gideon became a hero to the Israelites, and the Lord appointed him to be a judge over them. But the Israelites could only follow God for so long, then they would start worshiping idols again and turn away from God (usually when the person who rescued them died). God would always get angry then let other armies invade Israel for several years until things got really bad, and they would finally call

out to God for help. God was always faithful to their cry and would send someone else to rescue them, because He truly loved the people of Israel. This went on for hundreds of years... Each time God rescued the Israelites, he would appoint a new judge to rule over them. God chose 14 men and 1 woman (over a period of nearly 400 years) to save the Israelites from ruin, and become their judges. Some were big and strong, but others were small like Gideon, but God always chose the best man (or woman) for the job. **God is always looking for those who will be brave for Him.**

*The Lord does not look at the things man looks at.
Man looks at the outward appearance, but
the Lord looks at the heart.*

1 Samuel 16:7

Let's pray together. Repeat after me.

Dear God,

Thank you for your awesome love.

Thank you for the ways you look out for us and protect us.

*Show us the plans you have for our lives,
and keep your loving hand on me and my family always.*

*I've learned today that looks do not matter to God. He looks for
people who will be brave for Him like Gideon was.*

*I've also learned that life goes better for those
who obey God and worship only Him.*

*Please help me to love you more, because
of all the wonderful things you do for me and my family.*

In Jesus' Name

Amen

Activity below:



What Should You Do?

Gideon Is Brave

—Judges 6, 7

God chose Gideon to save His people. This seemed like a hard thing to Gideon, but he did something that helped him trust in God.

In the word pairs below, one word has a letter that is not in the other word. Write the extra letters you find in the squares. They will spell three words that will tell you what Gideon did, and what you can do when you are facing a tough job.

1. You can find me in PINK but not in KIN.

1	2	3	4
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2. You can see me in DROP but not in POD.

5	6
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3. I'm right there in READ but not in RED.

7	8	9
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4. See me in YOWL but not in LOW.

5. Find me in THEN but not in HEN.

6. I am in COAT but not in CAT.

7. Here I am in GEAR but not in ARE.

8. I'm found in BOAT but not in BAT.

9. Now I'm in DONE but not in ONE.

