

# Gallant Gideon

Judges 6; 7; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 546-554



**H**ave you ever been confused or afraid and not sure what to do? When Gideon learned to trust God rather than be afraid, exciting things began to happen.

**F**orty years after Deborah and Barak defeated Sisera, Israel forgot God and began worshiping idols again. Because the Israelites left God's protection, for seven years Midianites and Amalekites caused problems for the Israelites. They stole their food and destroyed their homes. Many of the Israelites lived in caves just to survive.

God looked for a leader—someone who would trust Him. He found Gideon.

Gideon was hiding from the Midianites while he was grinding wheat. Suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared and said: "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

Gideon was startled. He was no mighty warrior. His family was the smallest in the tribe of Manasseh. He certainly was not feeling very brave.

"I will be with you,"

God told Gideon. "We will destroy the enemy together."

Gideon was not sure. He asked the angel to wait while he made a meal for the angel. He put the meal on a rock, and almost immediately it was burned up by fire.

Gideon asked God for two more signs. He wanted to be certain that God was with him. He held a fleece in his hands and spoke quietly. "If you are going to help Israel defeat Midian,

let this fleece be wet tomorrow morning and the ground under it be dry."

The next morning it was just as Gideon had asked. No dew had touched the ground, but the fleece was soaked.

Gideon tested God again. "This time let the fleece be dry and the ground wet," he asked. The next morning his request was granted.

Gideon called an army to fight Midian, and 32,000 men joined him. Now God tested Gideon.



## The Message

God can use me  
when I trust Him.

## Memory Verse

*“I can do all this  
through him who  
gives me strength”*

*(Philippians 4:13, NIV).*

“There are too many men,” God said. “Send some home.”

Gideon knew that the Midianites and Amalekites had a huge army. But he obeyed God and sent 22,000 men, who were afraid, home (Judges 7:3).

God tested Gideon again. “Take your men to the river to drink. Look for the ones who drink standing up. Send all the rest home.”

Only 300 men passed the second test. God finally had a small enough army.

That night, Gideon divided his army into three companies. Armed only with clay jars, trumpets, and torches, they hid on three sides of the Midianite camp. All at once they blew their trumpets, smashed their jars, lit their torches, and shouted, “For the LORD and for Gideon!”

God did the rest. Awakened by the shouting, the Midianites and Amalekites rushed from their tents and began to fight each other! They were confused. Many ran away. And as they ran, Gideon’s soldiers chased them. The Midianites and Amalekites no longer bothered the Israelites. The Israelites could live

with no fear because they chose to stay with God.

God wants to help us with our most difficult problems. It is easy for Him to destroy our fears. It will be easy for us to trust Him when we remember all that He can do and all that He is willing to do for us.

God won the victory for the Israelites. God will win the victory for you too.



## S A B B A T H

**DO** If possible, go for a walk around your neighborhood with your family. Count the number of different kinds of lights that you see.

**READ** Find a quiet place and read your lesson together.

**DO** Take turns being blindfolded and letting someone lead you. Afterward, talk about what it means to trust someone.

**PRAY** Pray that God will teach you to trust Him more.

God wanted everyone to know that He, not a big army, had saved Israel!



## M O N D A Y

**READ** During family worship, read part of Gideon's story in Judges 6:1-40.

**DO** Wet a washcloth. Put a few cotton balls on top. Leave it for an hour. Do the cotton balls remain dry?

**DO** Repeat the experiment in reverse. Wet the cotton balls and put them on a dry washcloth. Does the washcloth remain dry?

**PRAY** During family worship, talk about things that frighten you. Pray together that God will help you trust Him when you are afraid.

## S U N D A Y

**DO** Make a torch by rolling a piece of paper to form a cone. Cut out 12 flame shapes and write one word of the memory verse on each flame—don't forget the reference. Put the flames in the torch and repeat the memory verse. Teach the verse to your family during worship.

**ASK** Ask three people to tell you about a time they had to trust in God.

**DO** Help your mom make the evening meal. Think about how Gideon felt while making a meal for the angel.

**PRAY** Thank God that you can always trust Him.

## T U E S D A Y

**READ** With your family, read and discuss the second part of Gideon's story in Judges 7:2-8.

**DO** Drink some water from a cup. Fill a basin with water and try drinking from your hand. Which is easier?

**DO** Make up a song, rap, or poem about how Gideon chose his soldiers.

**PRAY** Pray that you will always be ready to help people in your community.

## W E D N E S D A Y

**DO** Try to listen to some trumpet music during worship today. Find out how trumpets have been used in war. (Hint: look on the internet or in an encyclopedia.)

**READ** During family worship, read and discuss the last part of 2 Corinthians 12:10 together. If you are not sure what it means, find some thread. Try to break it. Now try to break 10 lengths of thread at the same time. Talk about how you can be weak and yet strong.

**PRAY** Pray for strength to do God's will.

# THURSDAY

## READ

Review your memory verse and say it for your family during worship.

## DO

If possible, make the room dark for family worship. Explain that you want to try an experiment. Turn off the lights and make a loud noise, then turn on the lights. Ask everyone how they felt. How does this compare with how the Midianites felt when Gideon and his men attacked them?

## DO

Count the number of lights you have in your home. Which one gives the most light?

## PRAY

Pray that God will bless the leaders in your community.

# FRIDAY

## DO

Review the story of Gideon and act it out with your family for worship tonight.

## SHARE

Share the song/poem/rap you wrote on Tuesday.

## DO

Say the memory verse together.

## PRAY

Pray for each member of your family.

Gallant  
Gideon

# PUZZLE

Directions: Put the pictures from the story of Gideon in order by placing a number from 1 to 6 in the box below each picture.











