

## Gideon - the mighty warrior?

Gideon was scared... he'd been hiding. The Midianites had invaded the land of Israel and they were stealing their animals to feed their army. They were destroying their crops leaving nothing for the Israelites to eat. The Midianites were very powerful and very cruel.

Then one day Gideon was threshing wheat in a wine press. In those days people normally threshed wheat outdoors but Gideon was indoors in the wine press because he was scared and was hiding from the Midianites.

SUDDENLY.....



the angel of the Lord  
appeared

The angel of the Lord said,  
"The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

Now Gideon really didn't feel like a mighty warrior, he was really worried about the Midianites and scared of what might happen.

"Why haven't **you** rescued us Lord?" he asked.

Then the Lord turned to Gideon and said,  
"You have the strength to save the people of Israel. Go and save them from the Midianites. I am sending you."

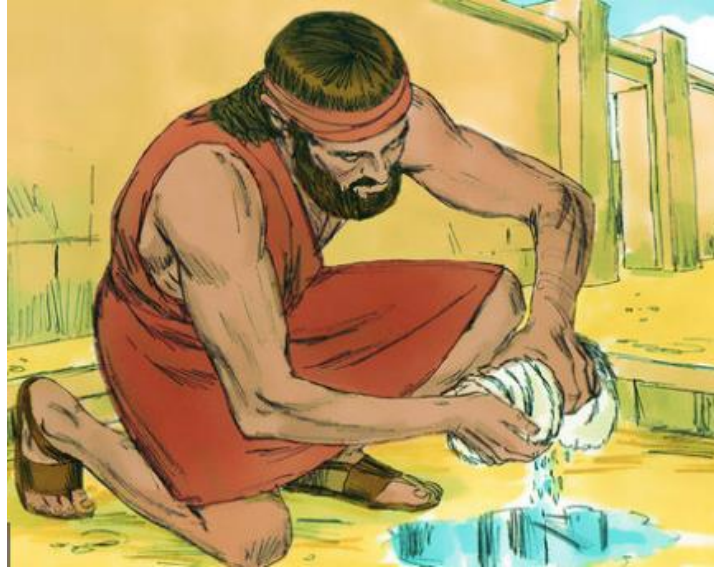
"What, me?" said Gideon, "How can I save Israel? My family is the weakest and I am the least important member of my family."

The Lord answered him, "**I will be with you.**"

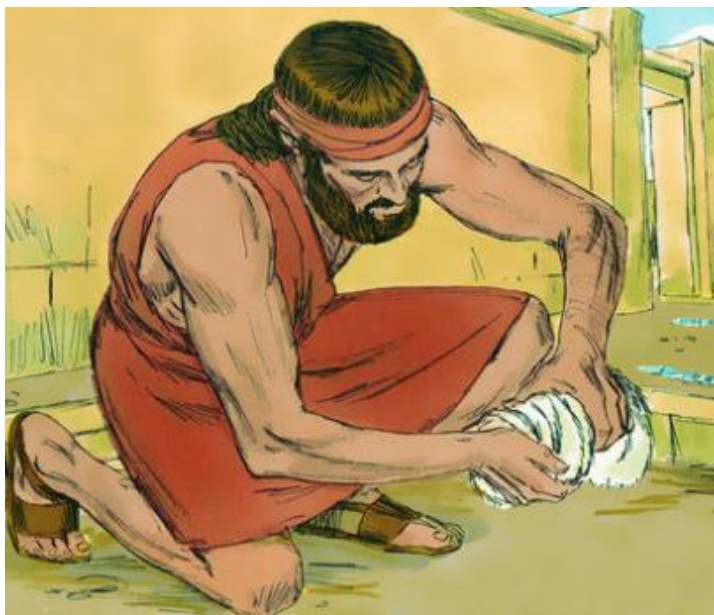
**So...** how do you think Gideon felt? All the Midianites were beginning to gather and they didn't look very friendly! Gideon started to call together an army from the tribes of Israel.

That night, Gideon was still feeling a bit unsure and he wanted God to give him a sign. He said to God,  
"I will put some wool on the threshing floor and then, in the morning, if there is dew on the wool but not on the floor I will know that you will use me to save Israel."

In the morning the wool was wet and the floor was dry.



BUT... Gideon was **still** not sure so he said to God,  
"Don't be angry with me. Let me ask one more thing. This time, please let the wool be dry and the floor be wet."



So the next morning the wool was dry and the floor was wet. At last Gideon really **knew** that God was with him. So when God asked him to do some things that seemed very odd, he did them!

The following morning the Israelites set up camp. The Midianites were camped to the north of them in a valley and there were about 135,000 men.

Gideon's army had 32,000 men.

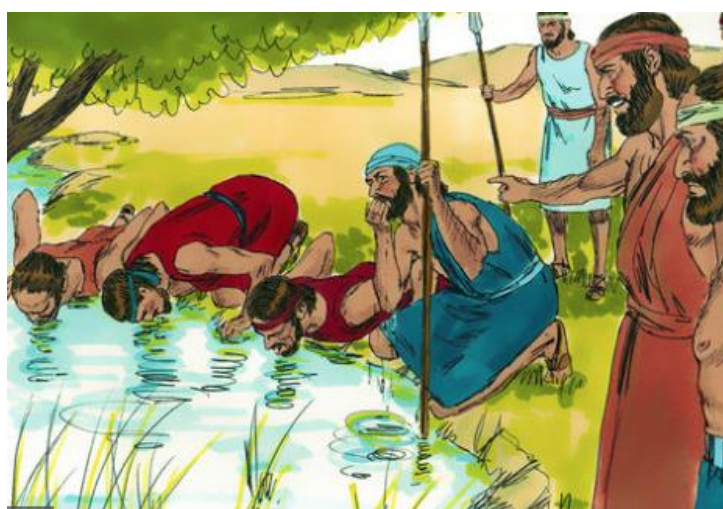
So... you can imagine Gideon's surprise when the Lord said, "You have too many men!"

Anyway... Gideon told the Israelites that if anyone was feeling afraid, they should go home and 22,000 men went home. That meant that there were only 10,000 men left.



You might find it hard to believe and I'm sure Gideon did but then the Lord said to Gideon,

"There are still too many men."



The Lord told Gideon to take the remaining men down to the water, to let them drink. God told Gideon that only those who cupped their hands and then lapped up the water should stay and the rest should go home. There were only 300 who stayed

So now....

The Israelite army had 300 men

The Midianites had **135,000** men

The next day was even more surprising. Gideon didn't give his soldiers swords and shields and armour. Instead God told him to give each man a trumpet and an empty jar with a burning torch inside it. Gideon explained that they should watch what he did and then do exactly the same.

They came to the Midianite camp around midnight and surrounded it.

They ALL blew their trumpets.

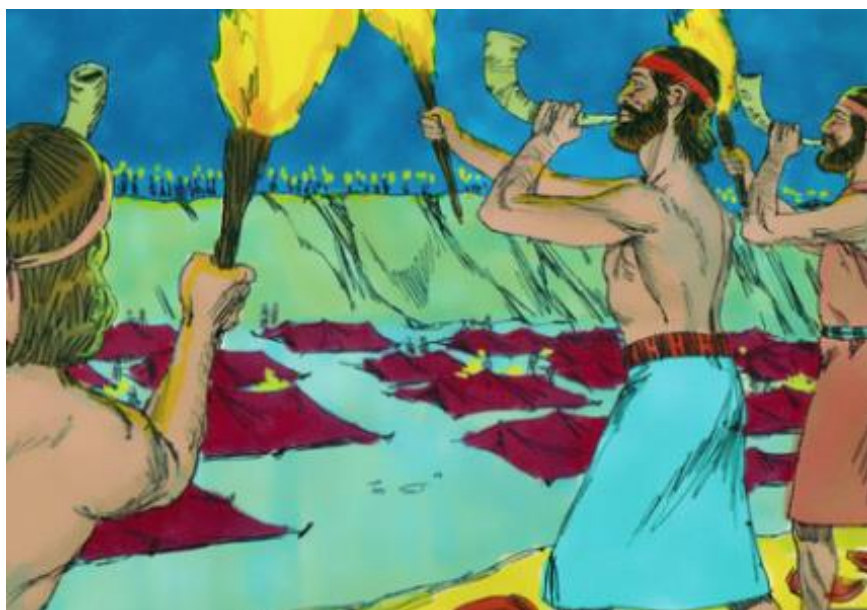
They ALL smashed their jars.

THEN

They ALL held their torches in their left hand.

They ALL held their trumpets in their right hand.

... and they ALL shouted '**For the Lord and for Gideon.**'"





Meanwhile in the Midianite camp there was panic and confusion and they ALL started fighting each other and running away and the Israelites chased them away and claimed back their lands.

What an extraordinary battle!

Gideon was very scared at the beginning of the story. He felt that he was not strong enough or important enough to be used by God. But God had chosen him to do this task. Gideon needed lots of assurance and signs to be sure that God had chosen him but God was very patient with him and gave him the **strength** and **power** that he needed. God can use us too and will give us the strength and the power we need to follow him and to do what he says.

So learn this verse to remind you that God can do the same for you.

*"He (God) gives strength to those who are tired  
and more power to those who are weak."*

*Isaiah 40:29*

### **Prayer**

Thank you God that you are such an amazing God.

Thank you God that you helped Gideon and that you can help us to.

Thank you God that you have plans for our lives and that you are always with us and you help us too.

Amen

### **Links for Gideon**

Superbook - (26mins) longer version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StowZD2JvZw>

Saddleback Kids (3mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3CDZjpkDKU>

Crossroads Kids Club - God's Story (4mins)

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

Teaching Kids about Jesus (3mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNvRodoWh8c>

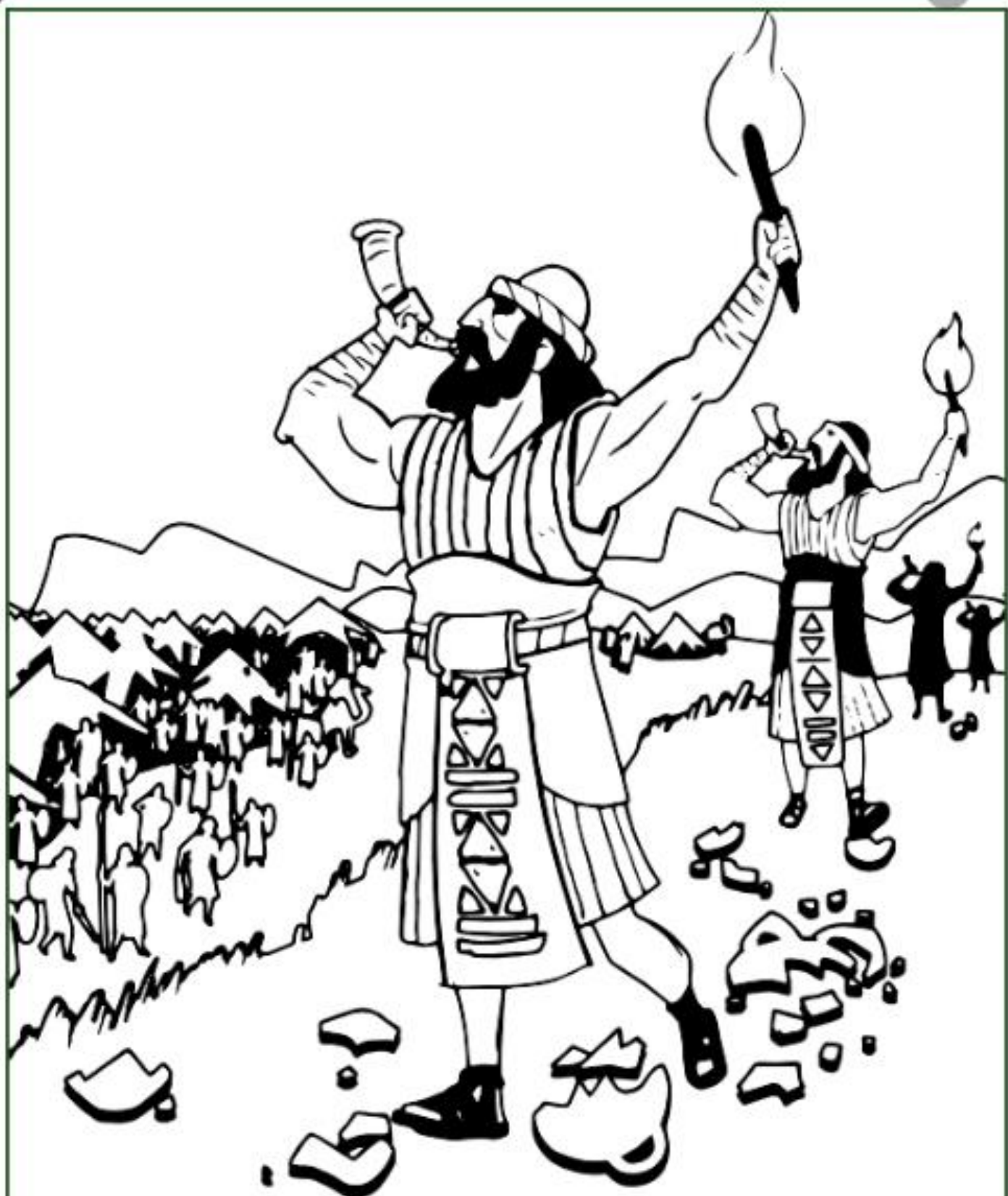
Free bible images

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gideon-fleece/> Gideon part 1

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gideon-midianites/> Gideon Part 2

Word search to play online

<http://www.livingwaterbiblegames.com/wordsearch/ws.html?puzzle=GIDEON>



God helped Gideon be courageous.





The story of Gideon  
Judges 7:1-20





# Bible Pathway Adventures

## WORD SEARCH GIDEON

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

JUDGE  
 MESSENGERS  
 MIDIANITES  
 WATER  
 BARLEY BREAD  
 PROPHET

ARMY  
 MANASSEH  
 FIRE  
 BAAL  
 ISRAELITE  
 YAHWEH

GIDEON  
 VICTORY  
 PEACE  
 SUCCOTH  
 ANGEL  
 FLEECE



