



February 7, 2021
Gideon Defeats the Midianites
Judges 7:1-22
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Last week, we learned an important lesson about forgiveness. We learned that it's not always easy to forgive, but it's what is best for others and for us. We learned that we are not alone in trying to forgive, but that we always have Jesus to help us. When we think about how many times He has forgiven us, we realize how much He loves us. His love, even when we don't deserve it, is what gives us the power to forgive others. We definitely could not do it on our own.

This week, we will see another example of God's power. God will, once again, prove to us that it is His power that saves us and helps us defeat our enemies. We can think of our enemies as the problems we have in our lives. Sometimes we may be tempted to think that we have everything under control and that we don't need God's help. He wants us to know that His way is always the best way. When we listen to Him, He helps us to do amazing things that we could never imagine doing on our own.

Watch the video below to discover the amazing way God helped Gideon and his army defeat the Midianites:

<https://youtu.be/c3CDZjpkDKU>

God had a plan to help the Israelites defeat their enemy, the Midianites. He knew they couldn't do it on their own. The Israelites had a pretty big army, so they may have been tempted to think they could do it by themselves. God wanted them to know that they would have to depend on His power to help them. To do this, he told Gideon to send some of the army home. God really didn't need all of those soldiers to defeat the Midianites anyway.

Read Judges 7:3

How did God choose the first group of soldiers to go home? How many went home? How many were left?

Read Judges 7:4-7

How did God choose the second group of those who would stay with the army and those who would go home? Which group did He choose and how many were left?

Read Judges 7:12

How big was the army of the enemies – the Midianites, the Amalekites, and all the people of the east – that Gideon's army would have to face?

Gideon, and his servant, Purah, discovered just how big the enemy army was when God told them to go down to the enemy camp that night. But, God also helped them discover something else. Gideon and Purah overheard one of the enemy soldiers telling another soldier about a dream he had had that Gideon and his army would defeat them. Isn't that amazing? Even the enemy knew that he was going to be defeated!

Our enemy, the devil, also knows that he has been defeated. When Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again, he defeated death and the devil for us!

In the middle of the night, Gideon divided his army of 300 into three companies (or 3 groups). He had these three groups line up on three sides of the enemy camp. They had in their hands trumpets, empty jars, and torches. They surprised the enemy when they blew their trumpets, smashed their jars, shone their bright torches, and shouted that they were "for the Lord!" The enemy got all confused and started fighting each other and then ran away! (Judges 7:16-22)

You know, God helps us to do this with our enemies, or our problems, too. The devil has already been defeated, but he still creates problems in our lives. But, when we join together with other Christians (believers in Jesus), we can shine our lights and make some noise in Jesus' name. We can say we are "for the Lord" and He is for us. This makes the enemy run the other way!

Prayer:

Dear God,

Help us to depend on you when we need help with our problems. Thank you for other Christians that we can join together with in your name. Make us a strong and mighty army for you, as we remember that you are for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The following activities are linked with this lesson:

Gideon's Army Coloring Page

Gideon Trumpets and Torches Coloring Page

Gideon Word Search

Gideon Anagram

Gideon Dollar Store Shofar Craft

A shofar was a trumpet made from a ram's horn that people in Bible times used in religious ceremonies and as battle signals. Gideon's army probably used shofars.

Materials Needed:

- Party Horns from Dollar Tree (see picture)
- Tape
- Tissue or Crepe Paper (a brown paper bag would do) (Optional)
- Glue (Optional)

The last two items are optional for decorating your horn to look like a real shofar, but you can also just use the party horn the way it is as your trumpet!