



## BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 20

### GIDEON (JUDGES 6 & 7)

**Scripture:** Judges 6, 7:1-21

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Glow sticks, empty water bottles, kazoos or noise makers from the dollar store, tub, water, class cup, paper, diaper lining.

#### Ask:

- Who remembers the cycle of the judges? (Israel worships God, Israel falls into idolatry, God allows them to be oppressed, the Israelites cry out to God, God sends a judge, The Israelites are saved, They worship God again.)
- Which Judge did we talk about last week? (Deborah)
- Today we're going to talk about a pretty well-known judge. Can anyone tell me about Gideon?

#### Summarize

When God called Gideon, he didn't feel very sure he could do what God asked him to do. Throughout all of chapter 6, he is asking God for signs and showing that he is very afraid to follow God.

When he is first called, he meets the Angel of the Lord and offers him a sacrifice. Then he goes and destroys all the idols of Baal that the Israelites were worshiping, but he does it at night because he is afraid. Then, he asked for signs that God would save Israel by his hand. Two of those signs are these. Gideon asked God to make a wool fleece wet in the morning, with the ground around it dry. He woke up and it was so! But he still wasn't sure. So he asked God to make the wool dry and the ground around it wet. And God did that, too!

**Experiment:**

Let's see if we can make a cloth only wet, and then make some paper stay dry when submerged in water.

For the wet cloth, I don't have any idea too exciting. Simply empty the inside of a diaper (the gel that holds in the liquid) and place it under your cloth. Pour water on it and show how the cloth is wet but all else is dry.

To keep paper dry in water, follow this experiment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2P69KlrTtYg>

Essentially, the air keeps the water dry in the cup when fully submerged.

So Gideon has his signs, and now he's going to save Israel, let's see how God does it.

**Read:** Judges 7:1-21

**Apply:**

Do you think you would have been scared like Gideon? Isn't it cool how God used him, even though he was scared? He assured him that he was with him. What would you have thought if you had to go up against an army with only 300 men? God wanted to make sure that He alone got the glory.

God can use us even when we're afraid and even when the task seems impossible. When we trust him and follow him, he can do incredible things!

**Activity:**

Reenact the story with glow sticks or flashlights, water bottles, and cheap noisemakers from a party store or kazoos.

Turn the lights off and have a group be the Midianites. They will pretend to sleep.

Have Gideon's army surround the Midianites. One person will be Gideon. On his signal, the kids will break their glow sticks and put them in the empty water bottles. Then they'll blow their kazoos, shake the bottles, and scream, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"

Have the groups switch places, so they can all have a chance to break glow sticks and shout.

**Comic Book Bibles:**

Have the kids draw the story of Gideon. Save it to add to their Comic Book Bibles.

**Memorize:** Judges 7:20

**Close in Prayer**

