

## Kingsquad Notes - Term 5 2013 - Gideon

Dear Kingsquad leaders,

This term the Kingsquad notes focus on one of the judges that governed Israel before the kings. The story of Gideon contains examples of emotions and dilemmas that we all face at some point.

We have included one week about a group who spread God's word into everyday places where people may feel in need of comfort, guidance or support, Gideons International.

'We would like to hear your views on the new layout of Kingsquad notes and any themes that you would like us to cover in future. So we have again enclosed our feedback questionnaire which we would be very grateful if you could fill in for us, if you did not do it last month.

Thank you again so much for all you do.

Yours in Christ,  
The Family Trust Team

### Summary of Notes

Week	Story & Bible Reference	Memory Verse
1	Overcoming Fear (The Angel & Baal statues) Judges 6:1-32	"Don't be afraid of anyone, because I am with you to protect you," says the Lord. <i>Jeremiah 1 v 8 (NCV)</i>
2	Knowing God's will (Laying a fleece) Judges 6:33-40	'Those who are now last will be first, and those who are now first will be last.' <i>Luke 13 v 30</i>
3	Trust (God reduces the size of Gideon's army) Judges 7:1-8	Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. <i>Proverbs 3 v 5</i>
4	Encouragement (The soldier's dream) Judges 7:9-15	My help will come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. <i>Psalms 121 v 2</i>
5	Listen to God (God's plan works) Judges 7:15-25	I know, Lord, that you are all-powerful; that you can do everything you want. <i>Job 42 v 2</i>
6	God's word is important (Gideons International & 2 Chronicles 34)	Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path. <i>Psalms 119 v 105</i>

# Gideon

- The Angel and Baal statues

The enemies of God's people often attacked and hurt the Israelites. The Israelites had to hide from them in caves and in the hills. Whenever they planted their seeds to grow their food the enemies would come and destroy the crops across the whole of the land. The would take all the animals and there would be nothing left for the Israelites. There were so many enemies that God's people could do nothing.

Gideon now felt very brave!

The enemies worshipped gods called Baal and Asherah. Gideon was told to break the altar of Baal, cut down the pole symbol of Asherah and build an altar to God instead. Gideon did not want to do it during the day because he felt afraid, so he did it at night.

When the people of the town woke up early the next morning they saw what had happened and they were angry. They wanted to kill Gideon because of what he had done, but Gideon stood up to them and said that it was wrong to worship any other god. He now felt brave.

Now, an angel from God came to a village and there he found a man called Gideon. Gideon was one of God's people and he was hiding in the place where they crushed grapes with their feet to make wine. He was hiding because he felt afraid. You might be thinking that it would be fun to squish grapes with your feet but Gideon wasn't doing that, instead he was separating wheat.

When the angel appeared he made Gideon feel very scared, but God's angel said "The Lord is with you, brave and mighty man." That made Gideon feel special. Then the angel ordered him to go and rescue the Israelites



## Get closer to God with Todd



Hi Kingsquadders!

My name is Todd and my job is to ask you questions that you can think about and discuss with your leaders and friends!

- Have you ever been afraid to do something important?
- Do you think God could help you?

"Don't be afraid of anyone,

because I am with you to protect you,"

says the Lord. Jeremiah 1 v 8

Gideon had God's help. If there's something you need help with, or someone you know who needs help, you can write a prayer for them below.

At first, Gideon was \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ so he destroyed the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ at night.  
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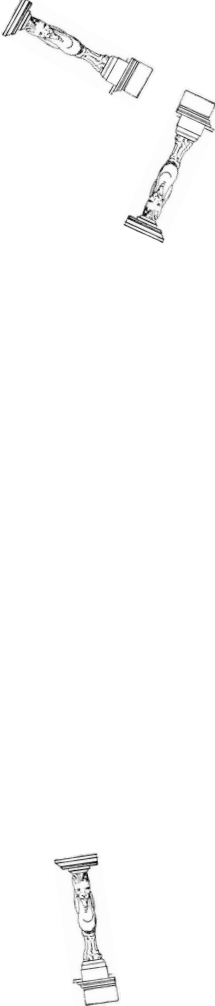
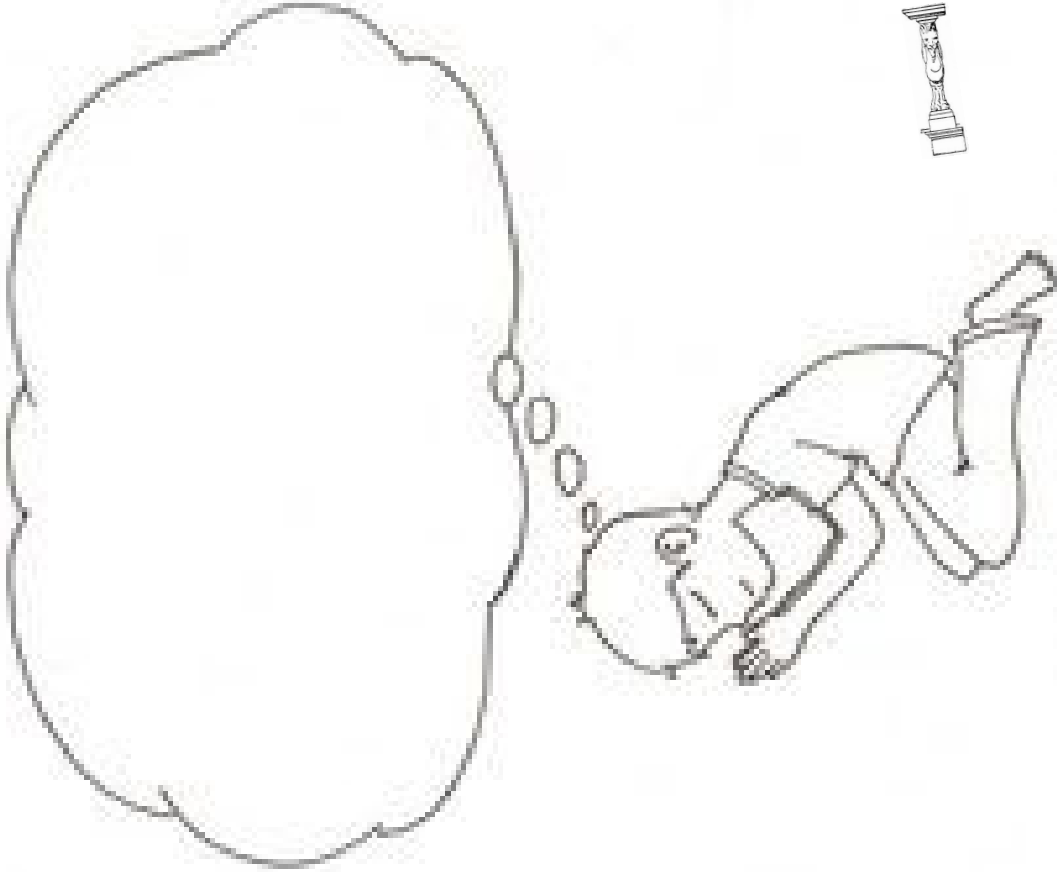
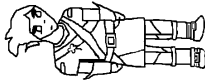
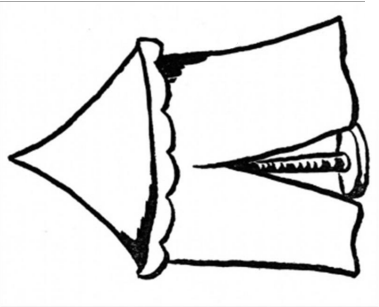
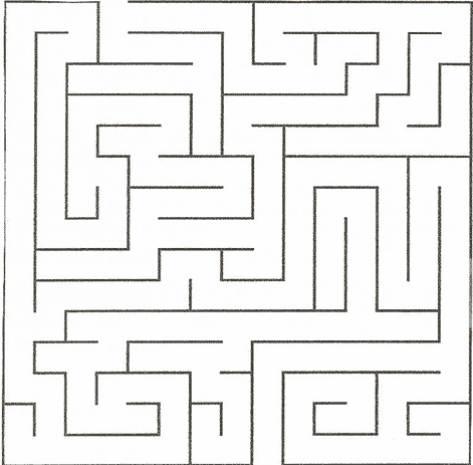
Because \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ was with him, Gideon became \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and told them it was  
2 10 25 23 13 22 17 26

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ to worship statues.  
18 13 10 9 2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E

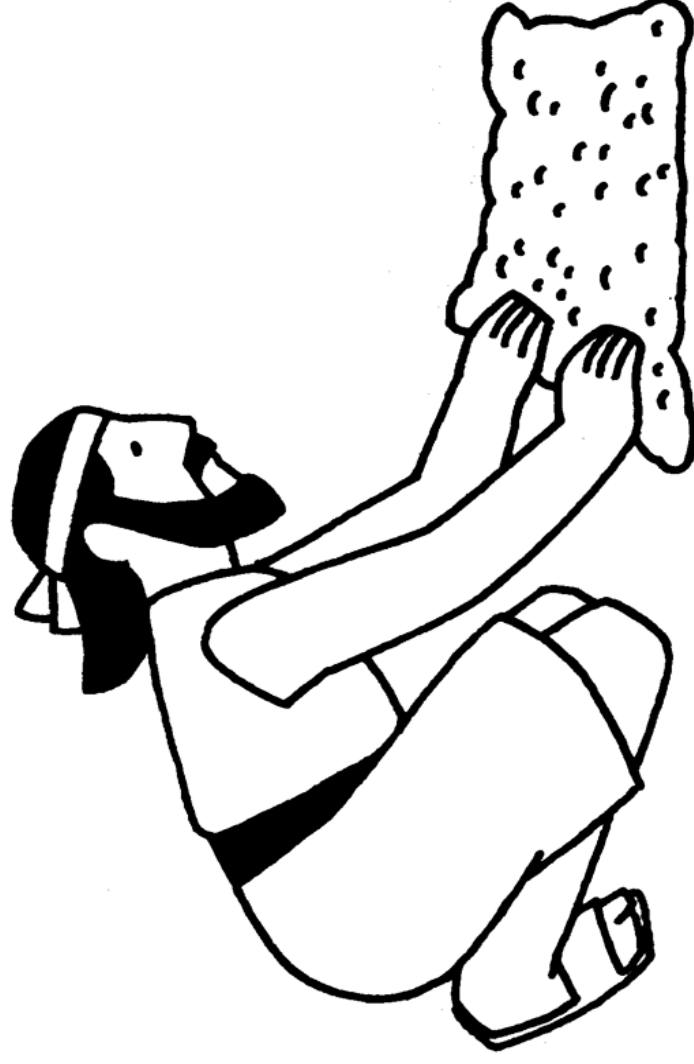
Hidden in this  
funsheet are  
some statues.  
See if you can

Gideon's just destroyed the statues. Help him  
get home quickly before anyone finds out!



# Gideon

- Laying the fleece



Then all the Midianites, the Amalekites, and the desert tribes assembled, crossed the Jordan River, and camped in Jezreel Valley. The spirit of the LORD took control of Gideon, and he blew a trumpet to call the men of the clan of Abiezer to follow him. He sent messengers throughout the territory of both parts of Manasseh to call them to follow him. He sent messengers to the tribes of Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they also came to join him.

Then Gideon said to God, "You say that you have decided to use me to rescue Israel. Well, I am putting some wool on the ground where we thresh the wheat.

If in the morning there is dew only on the wool but not on the ground, then I will know that you are going to use me to rescue Israel." That is exactly what happened. When Gideon got up early the next morning, he squeezed the wool and wrung enough dew out of it to fill a bowl with water. Then Gideon said to God, "Don't be angry with me; let me speak just once more. Please let me make one more test with the wool. This time let the wool be dry, and the ground be wet." That night God did that very thing. The next morning the wool was dry, but the ground was wet with dew.

## Get closer to God with Todd



Hi Kingsquadders!

My name is Todd and my job is to ask you questions that you can think about and discuss with your leaders and friends!

- Do you think Gideon strongly believed in God's will for him?
- How can you find out what God's will is for you?



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

Circle the words from the story in this wordsearch

- Gideon
- Fleece
- Wet
- Dry
- God
- Will
- Dew
- Power
- Tests
- Confidence

“Those who are now last will be first, and those who are now first will be last.”

Luke 13 v 30

Who could you pray for this week?

Write the person’s name in the box.



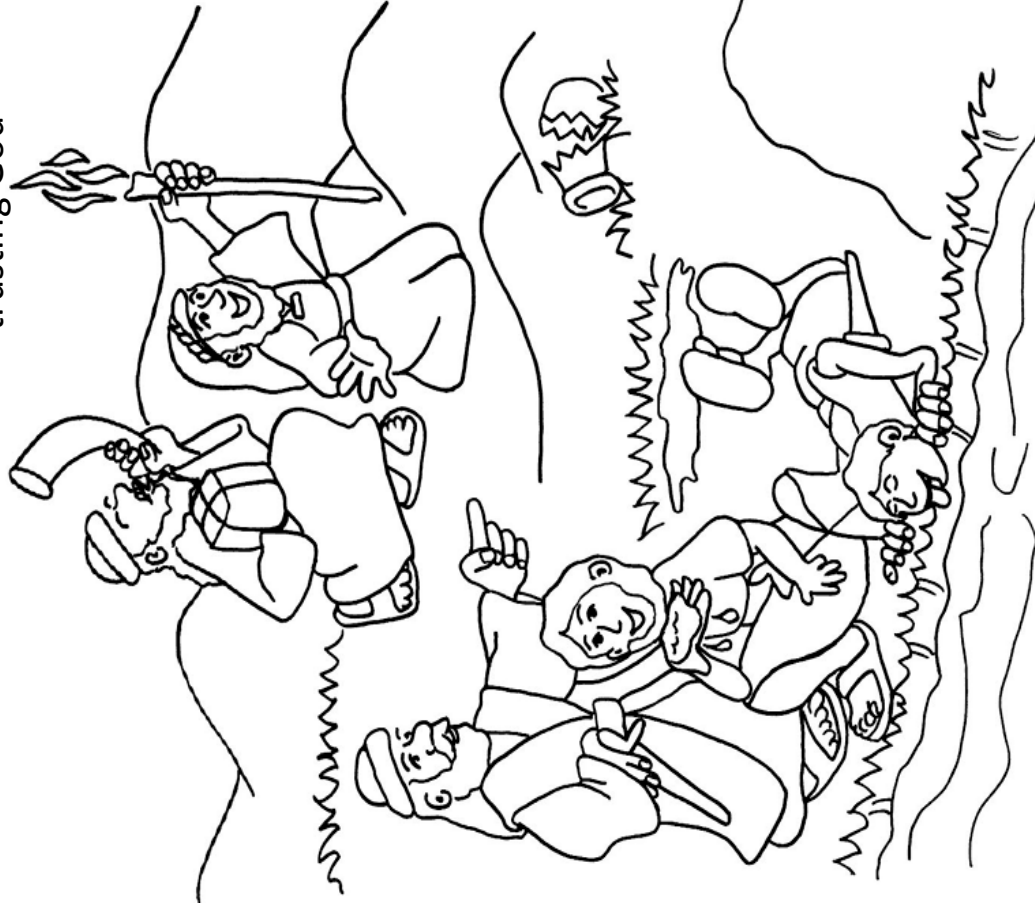
©2012MMBOX PRODUCTION



Can you spot the five differences?

# Gideon

- trusting God



Name: .....

One day Gideon and all his men got up early and camped beside Harod Spring. The Midianite camp was in the valley to the north of them by Moreh Hill. The LORD said to Gideon, "The men you have are too many for me to give them victory over the Midianites. They might think that they had won by themselves, and so give me no credit. Announce to the people, 'Anyone who is afraid should go back home, and we will stay here at Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand went back, but ten thousand stayed. Then the LORD said to Gideon, "You still have too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will separate them for you there. If I tell you a man should go with you, he will go. If I tell you a man should not go with you, he will not go."

## Get closer to God with Todd



Hi Kingsquadders!

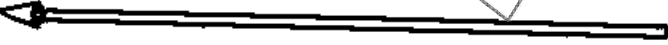
My name is Todd and my job is to ask you questions that you can think about and discuss with your leaders and friends!

- Do you think Gideon found it hard to trust in God?
- Try praying to God to help you trust in Him.

SW \_ r \_



To \_ \_ c \_

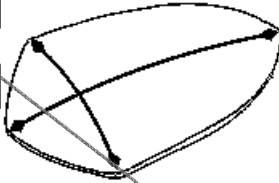


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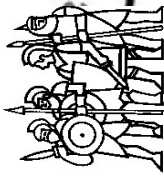
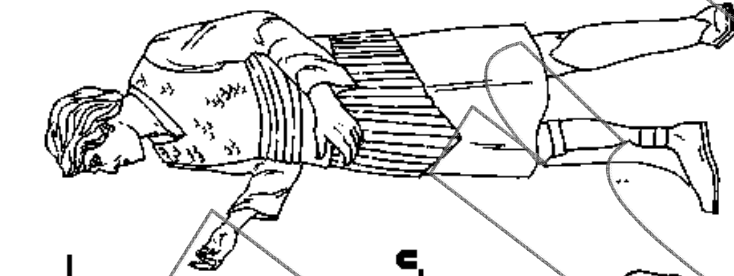


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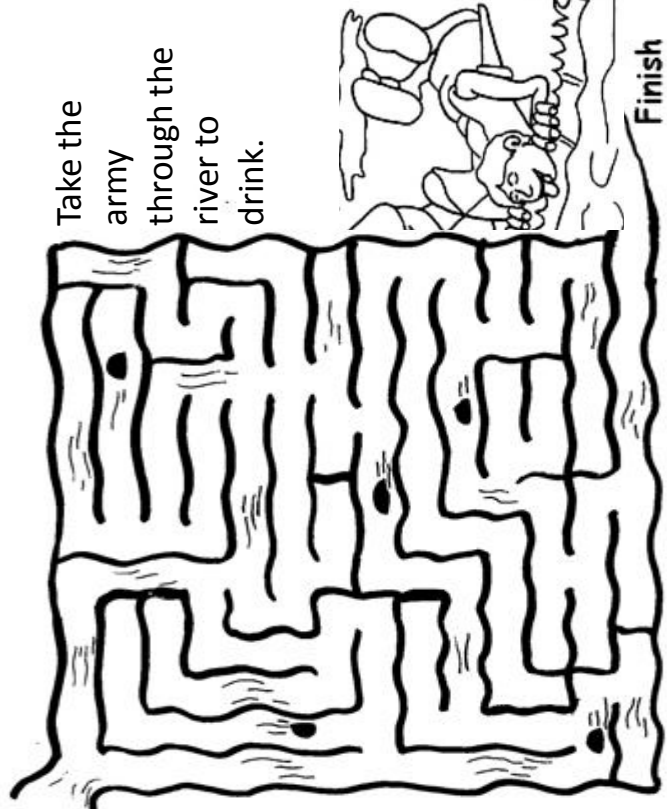
s \_ \_ ie \_ \_



P \_ \_ te \_ \_ e \_



Take the  
army  
through the  
river to  
drink.



Finish

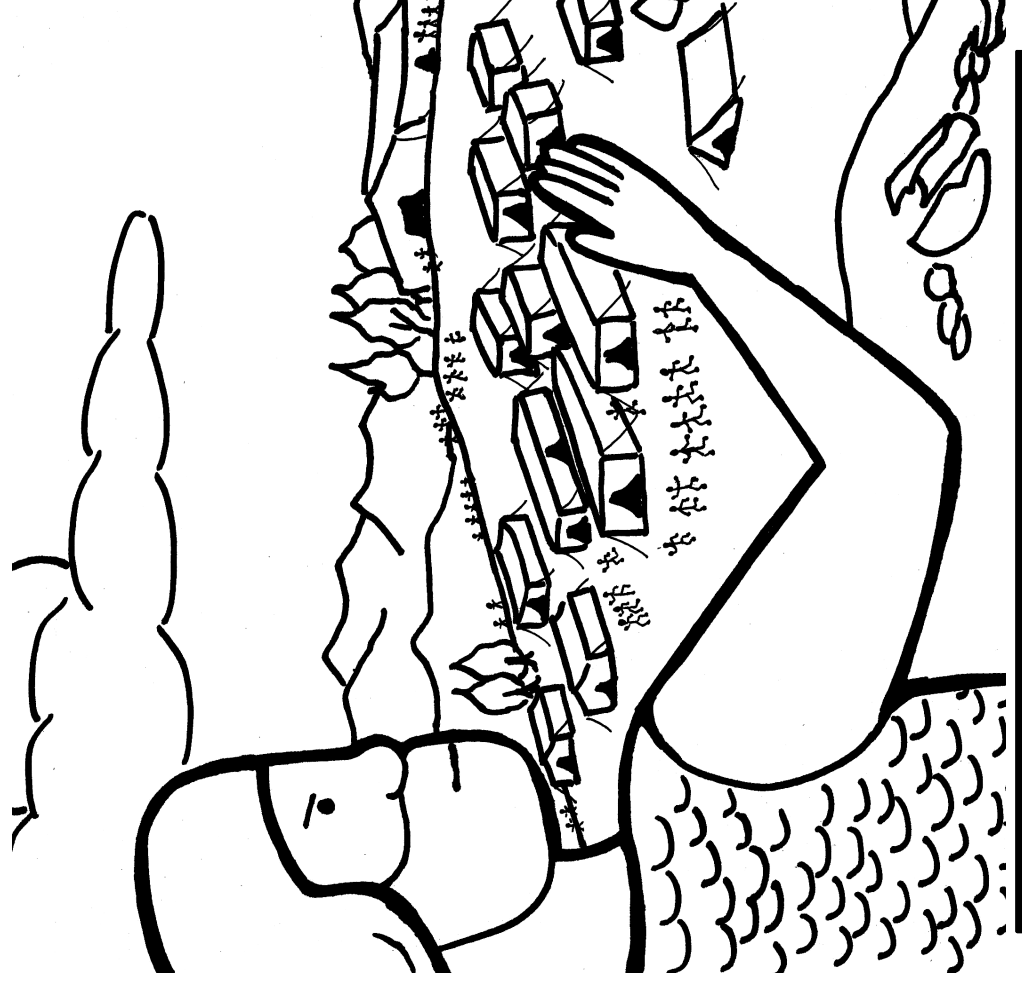
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,"

"Never rely on what you think you know."

Proverbs 3 v 5

# Gideon

- encouragement



Name: .....

That night the LORD commanded Gideon, "Get up and attack the camp; I am giving you victory over it. But if you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah. You will hear what they are saying, and then you will have the courage to attack." So Gideon and his servant Purah went down to the edge of the enemy camp. The Midianites, the Amalekites, and the desert tribesmen were spread out in the valley like a swarm of locusts, and they had as many camels as there are grains of sand on the seashore.

When Gideon arrived, he heard a man telling a friend about a dream.

He was saying, "I dreamed

that a loaf of barley bread rolled into our camp and hit a tent. The tent collapsed and lay flat on the ground." His friend replied, "It's the sword of the Israelite, Gideon son of Joash! It can't mean anything else! God has given him victory over Midian and our whole army!" When Gideon heard about the man's dream and what it meant, he fell to his knees and worshiped the LORD. Then he went back to the Israelite camp and said, "Get up! The LORD is giving you victory over the Midianite army!"

## Get closer to God with Todd



Hi Kingsquadders!

My name is Todd and my job is to ask you questions that you can think about and discuss with your leaders and friends!

- If you were Gideon, would you have believed God about having victory over the Midianite Army?
- This week pray for God to help you.

The Soldier's Dream

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

These word  
are from the  
story. Circle  
them in the  
wordsearch.

Amalekites

army

bread

camp

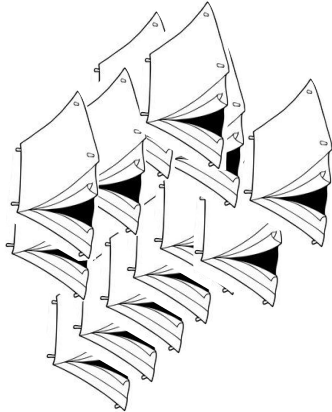
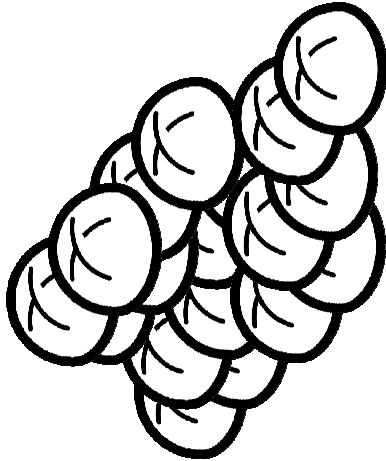
dream

Gideon

loaf

Midianites

servant



How many loaves and how  
many tents can you see?

My help will come  
from the Lord

Can you read the  
memory verse  
in the bread and  
tent shapes?

who made heaven and earth Psalm 121 v 2





When Gideon heard about the man's dream and what it meant, he fell to his knees and worshiped the LORD. Then he went back to the Israelite camp and said, "Get up! The LORD is giving you victory over the Midianite army!" He divided his three hundred men into three groups and gave each man a trumpet and a jar with a torch inside it.

He told them, "When I get to the edge of the camp, watch me, and do what I do. When my group and I blow our trumpets, then you blow yours all around the camp and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon!'" Gideon and his one hundred men came to the edge of the camp a while before midnight, just after the guard had been changed. Then they blew the trumpets and broke the jars they were holding, and the other two groups did the same. They all held the torches in their left hands, the trumpets in their right, and shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" Every man

stood in his place around the camp, and the whole enemy army ran away yelling. While Gideon's men were blowing their trumpets, the LORD made the enemy troops attack each other with their swords. They ran toward Zarethan as far as Beth Shittah, as far as the town of Abel Meholah near Tabbath. Then men from the tribes of Naphtali, Asher, and both parts of Manasseh were called out, and they pursued the Midianites.

Gideon sent messengers through all the hill country of Ephraim to say, "Come down and fight the Midianites. Hold the Jordan River and the streams as far as Bethbarah, to keep the Midianites from crossing them." The men of Ephraim were called together, and they held the Jordan River and the streams as far as Bebarah. They captured the two Midianite chiefs, Oreb and Zeeb; they killed Oreb at Oreb Rock, and Zeeb at the Winepress of Zeeb. They continued to pursue the Midianites and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, who was now east of the Jordan.

# Gideon

- listening to God



## Get closer to God with Todd



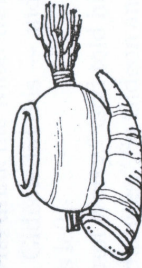
Hi Kingsquadders!

My name is Todd and my job is to ask you questions that you can think about and discuss with your leaders and friends!

- How did Gideon feel about God?
- Do you think God can help you with the challenges you face?



WHEAT

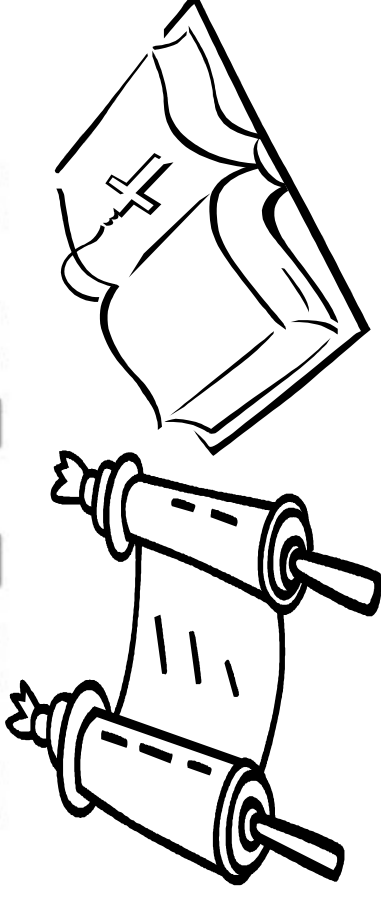
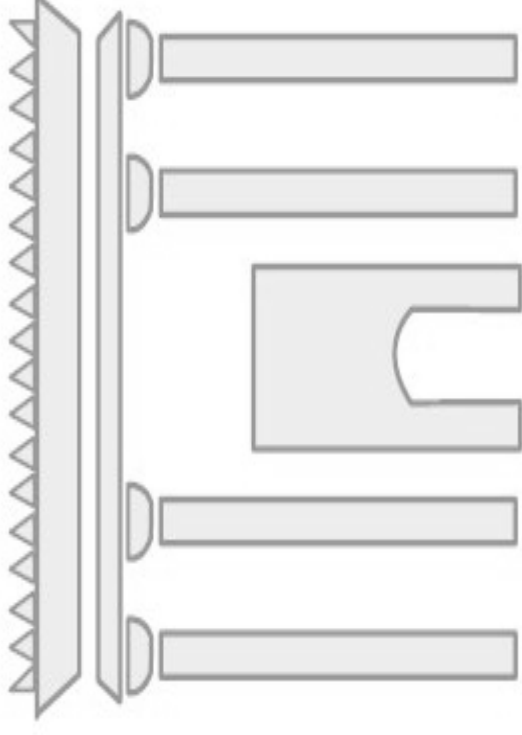


Job 42 v 2



# Gideon

- God's word is important



## The Word of God (*The Torah*) is Found (2 Chronicles 34) & The Gideons is Started

The Israelite Bible, written by Moses, taught the Israelites how to live as God wanted them to. But it had been lost for a long, long time. They had forgotten the rules that God had given them, they kept making mistakes. Then one day Josiah the King sent the High Priest to the Temple to pay the workers who were repairing the Temple. While he was getting the money out of a store cupboard, he found the Israelite Bible and quickly took it to the King. When he read it, Josiah immediately called everyone in the city together and there was a great celebration as they now had God's word again and could be guided by it once more. They knew that the word of God, the Bible, was important.

In 1899, a group of Christians, who often travelled about and stayed in hotels, met and decided that a really good way of helping people know more about God was by making His book, the Bible, available to them. They call themselves 'The Gideons' because, like Gideon, they wanted to do exactly what God had asked them to do, not worrying about the results but just being obedient.

Since 1899, they have placed over *1.6 billion* Bibles in 190 countries around the world. They give them to hospitals, hotels, schools and prisons as well as to soldiers, police, ambulance and firemen. They know that the word of God, the Bible, is important.

## Get closer to God with Todd



Hi Kingsquadders!

My name is Todd and my job is to ask you questions that you can think about and discuss with your leaders and friends!

- Do you know an adult that has a Gideon Bible? Ask them about it.
- Find out about Bible-reading notes to help you understand the Bible better.

Find these words  
in the word search

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

Bible  
book  
celebration  
found  
Gideon  
king  
hospital  
hotel  
Josiah  
read  
school  
scroll  
temple



"Your Word is a lamp  
to guide me and a  
light for my path."



Psalms 119 v 105

Can you solve this cryptogram? Each of the blanks has a number underneath it. Try to work out the letters that equal each number to solve it. Once you have done this, why not pray the prayer it reveals.

KEY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
12				13				10				
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
3							5					

(Hint: how do we often start and end our prayers?)

	E	A			O		,			A		
21	13	12	2		11	3	21		18	26	12	24
4												

	O	U			O			I		I		
7	3	5		17	3	2		11	10	19	10	24
11												

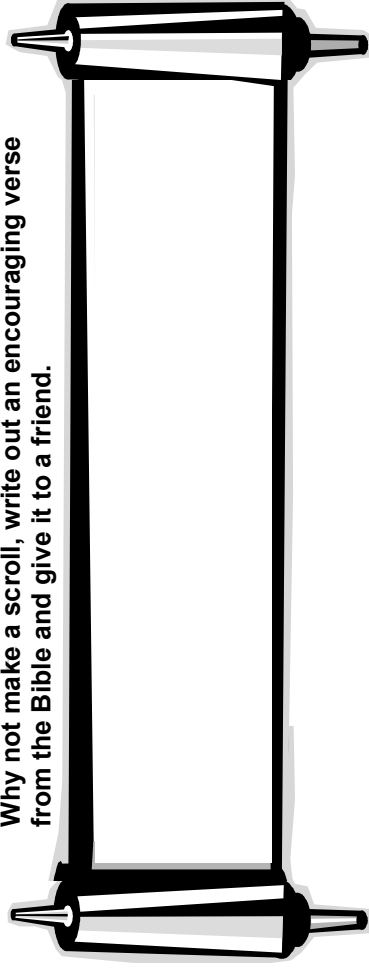
U				E			I		E		O	
5	22		18	26	13		16	10	16	20	13	18
3												3

	E		O	U			U	I		E		
16	13		3	5	2		11	5	10	21	13	

			O	U				I		E		
18	26	2	3	5	11	26		20	10	17	13	

A		E										
12	15	13	24									

Why not make a scroll, write out an encouraging verse from the Bible and give it to a friend.





Week 1

## Gideon (The Angel & Baal statues)



**For your info:** Gideon was one of the Judges, leaders appointed by God “to save them from the raiders” (Judges 2:16), although Gideon himself insisted (8:23 & 11:27) that the Lord is Israel’s true judge and ruler. This series of notes only looks at Judges 6 & 7, although Gideon’s story continues into chapters 8 and 9 where it all starts to go wrong again! At the start of this term, read through chapters 6-9 to get the full picture. **Today’s notes are based on Judges 6:1-32. Theme - Overcoming Fear.**

### Activities:

**Knock down the Asherah Pole:** Two teams with each child numbered. Put a plastic bottle between the teams and one bean bag per team on floor about ten paces away from the bottle on opposite sides. Call out a number, the two numbered children run and throw the bean bag at the bottle. One point to the team who knocks it down first.

**Find the leader:** All sit in a big circle. One child is taken out of the room while a leader is picked. When the child returns to the middle of the circle, everyone must slyly watch the leader and imitate what they do (e.g. cross legs, cross arms, yawn, stick out their tongue, etc.). The child in the middle has three chances to guess the leader.

**Break Baal’s Altar:** Set up an altar using three cereal boxes, two as sides, one as top. One child acts as a guard with their back to the rest. Then the children have to creep up to try to break the altar. If the guard turns round, any child seen moving has to go back to the start. If a child manages to break the altar, they then become the guard.

### Exploring the Story:

**Introduction:** Ask the children about different feelings and emotions that they have. Ask how they felt if there was something that scared them, were going on holiday, having a party, heard a sad story. How might the children show those feelings on their faces?

In today’s story there is a man who is going through a lot of different emotions.

**Story:** See resources for the story with feelings and emotions. Judges 6:1-32

### Worship:

#### Learn a verse from the Bible:

***“Don’t be afraid of anyone, because I am with you to protect you,” says the Lord. Jeremiah 1:8 (NCV)***

Play hangman, starting with a figure in a winepress (two vertical lines and a base) instead of a gallows. Any wrong guesses, rub out part of the picture.

**Song:** Our God is a Great Big God  
(Jo & Nigel Hemming – Vineyard Songs – Great Big God CD)

**Prayer:** Give the children a piece of paper and ask them to write on it something that worries them. When finished, put them all, unread, into a prayer box. Then ask them to think about what they have written and to silently ask God to help them with their feelings about it.

Finish by saying ‘Amen’ together.

**Application:** Gideon was in hiding and afraid at the start of the story. But because God was helping him, he was able to overcome his fears and start to stand up for what he knew was right. God can help us with those things that we worry about. The things may not change immediately, but God can help us to feel differently about them.

Ask the children in what ways do they think God might ask us to stand up for the things we believe in? (This might be in school, with issues such as bullying, or you could mention organisations like Tearfund who campaign for those who can’t stand up for themselves.)

How might God help us to stand up for what is right?

## Gideon and the Angel

*In the following story stop at the asterisk and have the children make faces according to how they think Gideon felt. Encourage the children to do their own expressions. You may like to comment on how the children may be showing different expressions from one another.*

The enemies of God's people often attacked and hurt the Israelites. The Israelites had to hide from them in caves and in the hills. Whenever they planted their seeds to grow their food the enemies would come and destroy the crops across the whole of the land. They would take all the animals and there would be nothing left for the Israelites. The Israelites felt very \*..... There were so many enemies that God's people could do nothing.

Now an angel from God came to a village and there he found a man called Gideon. Gideon was one of God's people and he was hiding in the place where they crushed grapes with their feet to make wine. He was hiding because he felt \*..... You might be thinking that it would be fun to squish grapes with your feet but Gideon wasn't doing that, instead he was separating wheat.

When the angel appeared he made Gideon feel very \*..... but God's angel said "The Lord is with you, brave and mighty man." That made Gideon feel \*..... Then the angel ordered him to go and rescue the Israelites from the enemies. "Hang on," said Gideon, "I can't do that!" Gideon was now feeling \*..... "My family is the smallest and weakest of all of God's people and I am the weakest of my whole family." The angel answered "You can do it because I will help you."

Now Gideon felt very \*.....

The enemies worshipped gods called Baal and Asherah. Gideon was told to break the altar of Baal, cut down the pole symbol of Asherah and build an altar to God instead. Gideon did not want to do it during the day because he felt \*..... So he did it at night.

When the people of the town woke up early the next morning they saw what had happened and they were \*..... (*Emphasise here that they were cross*) They wanted to kill Gideon because of what he had done, but Gideon stood up to them and said that it was wrong to worship any other god. He now felt \*.....





## Gideon (Laying a Fleece)



**For your info:** Last time we heard Gideon say, “How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family”. But the Lord God still said, “I will be with you”. This week we see just how true Gideon’s claims are as he demonstrates his lack of faith and confidence in himself. How can the almighty God have faith in his abilities to save Israel when he is the weakest of the weakest clan? And so this is where he tests God’s resolve to use him, almost giving God the opportunity to say that it was all a big mistake. But Gideon must be convinced by God’s power because this is the last time he tests God, although it is not the last time God demonstrates his total control over the situation and builds up the confidence of this fearful man.

**Today’s notes are based on Judges 6:33-40. Theme - Knowing God’s Will**

**Activities:** **All change!:** Stand the children in a big circle with a small square of material in front of them to mark their place. Name each child after a key word from last weeks story (ie. Israelite, God, angel, Asherah). When you call one of these key words, those children with that name have to run across the circle to a new place trying not to be the last one there. When you call the buzzword (ie. Gideon) everyone runs to find a new place in the circle.

**Circle games:** Seat everyone in chairs in a circle. Pass a large ball around the circle using feet and legs only and not letting the ball touch the floor. For an extra challenge try it again but without feet, legs or hands!

**Welly Boots game:** Have two pairs of large adult welly boots in the middle of a circle. Call two children to run and put the boots on and then run out through their gap in the circle and round the circle back to their place first. Think about Gideon who felt he was the weakest and least able of all the Israelites as you struggle to run in the wellies.

### **Exploring the Story:**

#### **Blow it! Challenge:**

This is a challenge or test in the same way that Gideon tried to test God and God’s power until he was satisfied it really was God and that he had the power to overcome Gideon’s failings.

You will need a two litre plastic bottle, washing up bowl with two inches of water, a bucket of water, plastic jug for refilling the bottle and bendy drinking straws.

Play on the floor with players round the bowl. Fill the bottle with water and, covering the end, upend it in the bowl so the bottle neck is covered by water in the bowl. The water should stay in the bottle! The challenge is to see who can blow all the water out of the bottle in the shortest time. Bend a straw and put the shortest end underwater and insert in the neck of the bottle. Hold the bottle firmly in place and on the word ‘go’ the player blows as hard as they can down the straw until the bottle is empty. Refill the bottle and remember to time each player to see who wins. The champion might be a surprise like Gideon was.

**Story:** Judges 6 v 33-40 - ‘Laying the fleece’

This is a very short story so you can read it directly from your Bible. You may like to illustrate the wet fleece as you read; wring out a soaked flannel into a bowl to demonstrate the amount of dew collected from the soaked fleece.

### **Worship:**

**Prayer Activity:** Encourage the children to pray for the person next to them. Pray that God will speak clearly to them and give them courage in all things.

**Learn a verse from the Bible:** *Luke 13 v 30*

***‘Those who are now last will be first, and those who are now first will be last.’***

Play an ‘over and under’ game while you chant the verse (with the person at the back running to the front each time).

### **Application:**

Gideon knew God’s will (to use him to rescue Israel from their enemies) but he wanted to be sure because he wasn’t confident in himself. Who do we turn to when we are not confident?

Gideon wanted to test God to be sure. How can we be sure of God’s will for us? We can test what God is saying by reading the Bible. For example, if you can recall some of the ten commandments, they can help guide us to what God might be saying.





## Gideon (Reducing The Army)



### For your info:

Here we see a slightly more trusting and willing to obey 'Gideon' as he accepts God's decision to send most of the army home. And, although God says he doesn't want the army to think they have won the battle alone because of their great numbers, there are also good reasons behind his decisions. The soldiers who are fearful should go so they don't demoralise the rest and the three hundred who lapped water from their hands in a standing position demonstrate they are on their feet, ready for anything. It is not clear whether God explains all this to Gideon to continue to build up his confidence or whether this is a continued lesson of trust and faith in God as they prepare to go into battle against their enemies that God promises to deliver into Israelite hands.

**Today's notes are based on Judges 7:1-8. Theme - Trusting God**

**Activities: The Chosen Few:** An elimination game, have some elimination factors in mind or written down (e.g. anyone wearing black shoes, anyone with green eyes, etc). Facing the whole group explain that you are looking for a mystery person. No one knows who they are or what they look like yet but others in the group can make guesses as the game goes on. As you call out the characteristics on your list, anyone who owns those characteristics must sit down. Hopefully you will eventually be left with one person standing. This game could lead nicely into the story where only some were chosen and others didn't fit the characteristics required.

**Blindfold Walkabout:** A trust game. Get the children into pairs. One of each pair is blindfolded. The pairs then walk about the hall with the blindfolded player being given directions by their partner so that they do not bump into anything or anyone. After a while, swap players so that everyone gets a chance to be blindfolded.

**Craft - Boomerang Bonanza:** (see resources section) Copy the boomerang on to card. Cut the boomerangs out and colour them. Have the children line up and throw their boomerangs to see whose travels furthest. The trick is to hold it lightly between the fingers and flick it horizontally. Talk to the children about having the skill with the wrist flick to make the boomerang fly well. God didn't choose the strongest or most powerful to be champions; it was how they used their skills for God that made them heroes.

### Exploring the Story:

#### **Play 'Don't Say That' to recap last weeks story:**

Explain that you are going to take turns to retell last weeks story but they are not allowed to use the buzz word 'AND'. Have each child tell only a little bit of the story so each one gets a turn or change storytellers when 'AND' is accidentally said. Change the buzz word to 'THE' as you go on or add two or three buzz words like 'HE, SHE, BUT, SO'. Get the children to shout 'GIDEON' when they spot a buzz word.

**Story:** Judges 7 v 1-8 - 'Reducing the army'

Again, this is a short story that you can tell directly from the Bible or there is a powerplay in the resources you can use.

### Worship:

**Prayer:** Talk about times when you need to have courage and to trust in God. Thank God that he is with you in these times. You might like to read out the famous 'Footprints in the Sand' poem to illustrate this or you can give a personal testimony.

**Learn a verse from the Bible:** Proverbs 3 v 5

***'Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know'.***

As a group, get the children to make up their own actions to the verse to help them remember it.

**Application:** Gideon was given a task by God - a task he was scared of and one that he knew he could not do on his own. He was probably a lot more scared than we've ever been - talk about times when we've been scared. Sometimes we are faced with situations that we feel we cannot cope with and cannot face on our own. We need to learn to trust God, knowing there is no situation he cannot cope with.

## Gideon and the army

Judges 7: 1-8

One day Gideon and his men got up early and camped beside the Spring of Harad. The Midianites were in the valley below. The Lord said to Gideon, 'The men you have are too many. They might think they've won by themselves. Announce to everyone that anyone who is afraid should go back home.' So, twenty thousand went back and ten thousand stayed.

Then the Lord said to Gideon, 'You still have too many men. Take them to the water and I will separate them for you.' Gideon took his men down to the water and there the Lord said, 'Separate everyone who scoops up the water with his hands and laps it with his tongue from everyone who gets down on his knees to drink.' There were only three hundred men who scooped up the water with their hands. All the rest were sent back while the three hundred stayed.

GIDEON - salute

MIDIANITES - 'boo!'

LORD - point up

AFRAID - look terrified; bite your nails

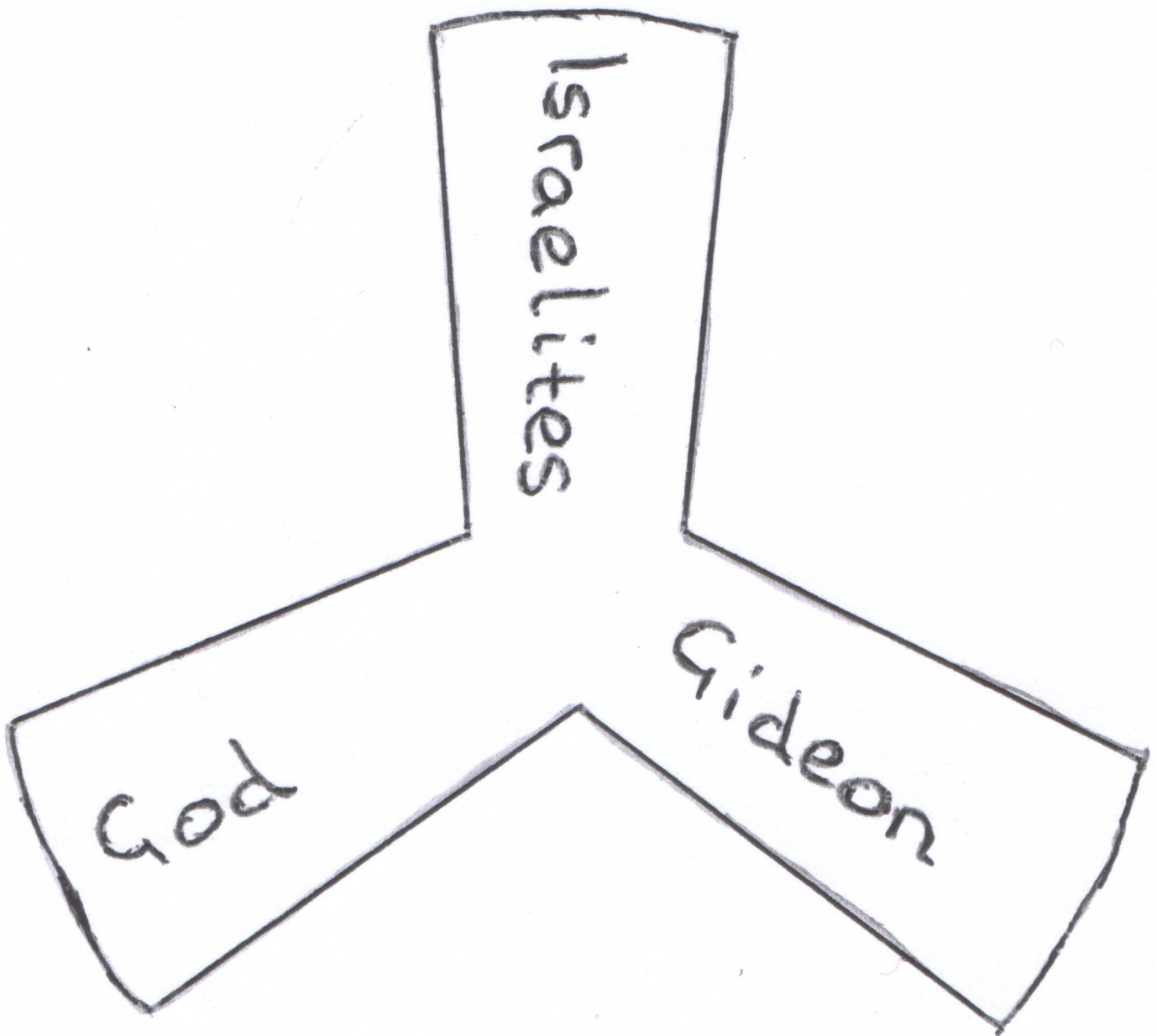
MEN - march on the spot

WATER - hold nose and say, 'glug, glug' while shrinking down

TWENTY THOUSAND - show twenty fingers

TEN THOUSAND - show ten fingers

THREE HUNDRED - show three fingers





## Gideon (The Soldier's Dream)



**For your info:** Gideon, although called by God to a special job, was lacking in confidence and needed encouragement. Sometimes we can feel like this, even when we have been doing something for a long time. Remember that no matter how we feel, God is at work. Ask Him today to help you in any areas where you need encouragement. Pray for any members of your team who may need encouragement themselves. **Today's notes are based on Judges 7:9-15. Theme - Encouragement.**

### Activities:

**Tent Race:** Teams of equal numbers. Each team stands in a line, one behind the other with feet spread out to form a long 'tent'. The front child rolls the ball (bread) back through the 'tent'. The person at the end of the line catches it and goes to the front to then roll the bread. When the first person reaches the front, their team collapse their 'tent' by sitting down.

**Triangle Tag:** Teams of four. Three form a triangle holding hands; one is chosen as 'target'. The fourth is on the outside and has to try to tag the target while the two others move round to try to protect the target. The three must keep holding hands. When tagged, swap roles around.

**Bread Relay:** Split into teams. Each team has a ball (the bread) and an A4 sheet of card folded in half as a tent. Place the tents away from the teams with a side towards them so that they can be knocked down. Each child has to roll the ball to knock down the tent before the next child can continue. It may be useful to have a leader to return the ball if it misses and to put the tent back up when knocked down.

### Exploring the Story:

**Introduction:** Blindfold one child and place some obstacles round the room. Get a partner to give them verbal instructions to guide them around some of the obstacles. Then get them to guide by taking their arm. Ask the blindfolded child how they felt when they had to just listen. Was it easier when they were guided by the arm?

Ask children for examples of when they have felt unsure or worried about something. Can they think what encouragement means. (*One meaning is 'to give hope or courage to'*) In those times when they were worried or unsure, anyone helped them and how. Say that in today's part of Gideon's story he was feeling worried about attacking the enemies' camp and we will see how God encouraged him.

**Story:** Read Chapter 7 v9-15 from the Bible (Good News version is in the resources).

### Worship:

#### Learn a verse from the Bible:

***"My help will come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121 v2***

Write each word on the templates in resources, alternating between tent and bread, one set per team. Place them on the floor at the opposite end of the room. They then race one at a time to get the words and put them in the right order.

**Song:** Help me be your eyes, Lord Jesus  
(Doug Horley – Fandabidozee CD; 2003 Thankyou Music)

**Prayer:** Give out some newspapers and ask the children to tear out headlines which they think show problems God can help with.

You could discuss the issues first, then invite some to pray for the people in the situations; or the headlines could be stuck on large sheets of paper and the children could write their prayers in the spaces between the cuttings.

**Application:** Gideon was given a job to do by God, but God knew that he might be feeling worried by it, so God was working in the background to encourage Gideon. When Gideon heard the soldier's dream, he was encouraged and went back to his men and encouraged *them*. We may feel that we are too small or unimportant to do something or to make a difference, but God can help us to do amazing things. Is there something that you think you could be doing that you need help with? Ask God to encourage you. Is there someone you know, at school or at home, who you could encourage today? Your words of encouragement may be just what someone needs to help them.

## **The Soldier's Dream**

Judges 7:9-15

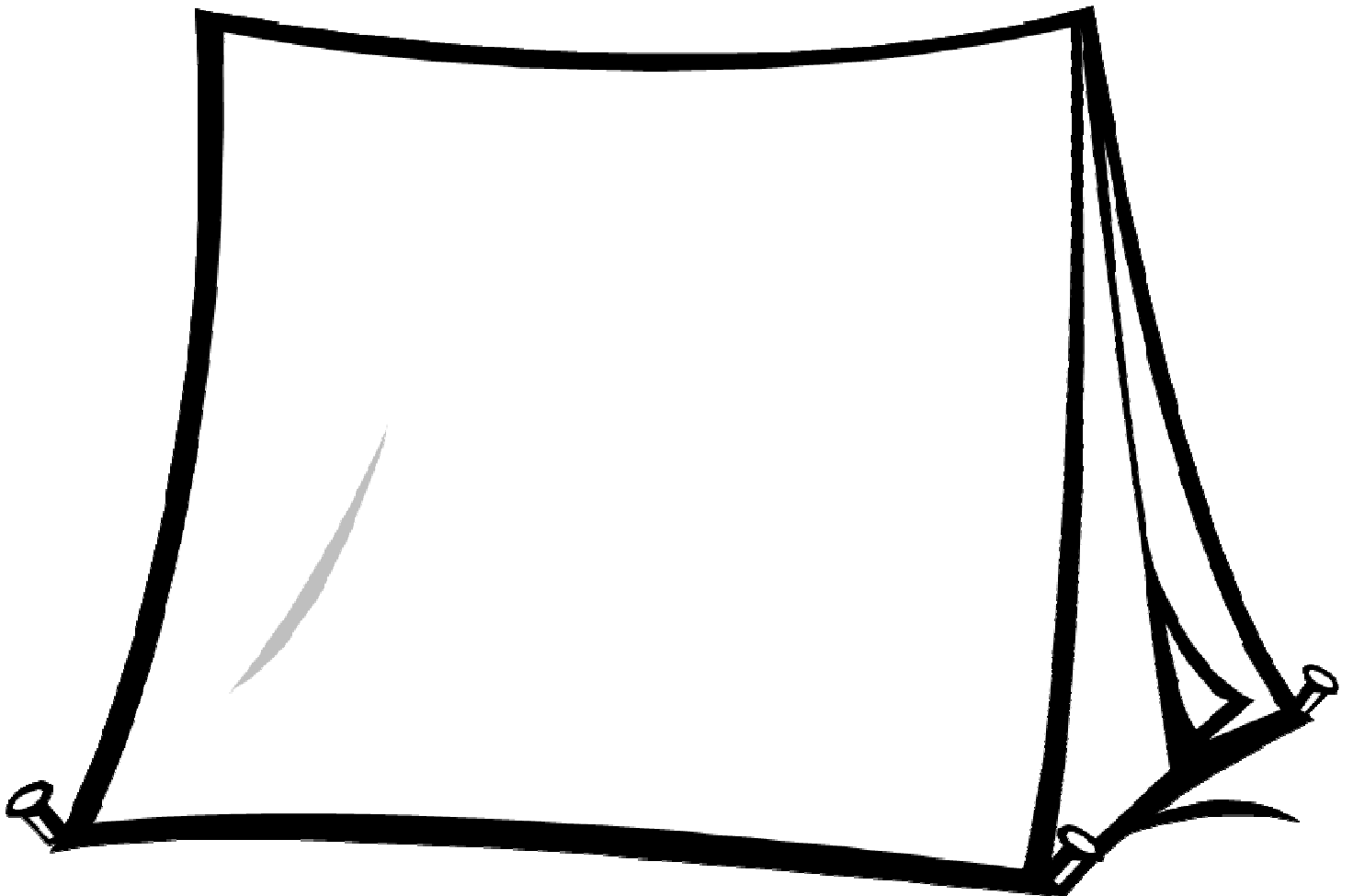
Good News Translation (GNT)

That night the Lord commanded Gideon, "Get up and attack the camp; I am giving you victory over it. But if you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah. You will hear what they are saying, and then you will have the courage to attack." So Gideon and his servant Purah went down to the edge of the enemy camp. The Midianites, the Amalekites, and the desert tribesmen were spread out in the valley like a swarm of locusts, and they had as many camels as there are grains of sand on the seashore.

When Gideon arrived, he heard a man telling a friend about a dream. He was saying, "I dreamed that a loaf of barley bread rolled into our camp and hit a tent. The tent collapsed and lay flat on the ground."

His friend replied, "It's the sword of the Israelite, Gideon son of Joash! It can't mean anything else! God has given him victory over Midian and our whole army!"

When Gideon heard about the man's dream and what it meant, he fell to his knees and worshipped the Lord. Then he went back to the Israelite camp and said, "Get up! The Lord is giving you victory over the Midianite army!"







## Gideon (God's Plan Works)



**For your info:** Gideon, was given some very strange instructions by God, in reducing his army and in how to win the battle. We may feel that we, like Gideon, are the wrong person for a job, that we are ill-equipped and that the way God wants us to do it would not be how we would do it. Use Gideon as an example because God's plans work.

**Today's notes are based on Judges 7:15-25. Theme - Listen to God.**

### Activities:

**Splat:** The children stand in a circle facing inwards. A leader stands in the middle and is the 'Splatter'. The splatter spins round and points his/her hand, as if holding a custard pie, at a child and says "Splat!" The child must duck and those either side of him must point to each other and say "Splat!" The one who is the slower to say this sits down. If a child fails to duck he/she sits down. When there are only two left they stand back to back and take two paces forwards. The leader says words similar to 'Splat' such as 'Split' etc. At these words the two take a pace forward. Only when the leader says "Splat" do the two turn and 'splat' each other. The quicker one wins.

**Mime when God used small things:** Divide into teams. Give them a Bible story where God used something small to do something amazing (*ideas in Resources*). They need to mime the story for the other teams to guess. When they have all been guessed, ask what part of the story was God at work.

### Exploring the Story:

**Introduction:** Put two signs at opposite side of the room, 'Possible' / 'Impossible'. Explain that they need to decide which actions you describe are possible and which are impossible. They then have to run to their chosen sign. Challenge the children to have a go at the action before bringing them back to the middle for the next action. (See resources for examples) Ask the children for examples of things they think are impossible. At the end, say that what seems impossible to us might not be for someone else. In our story today we see that what is impossible for us is never impossible for God.

**Story:** Read the version of Judges 7 v15-25 from Resources. The children could all act it out, some as Gideon's army, some as the enemy.

### Worship:

#### Learn a verse from the Bible:

"I know, Lord, / that you / are / all-powerful; / that you / can do / everything / you want." / Job 42 v 2

Write the words, split up as above, onto the trumpet, jar and torch templates (see resources). Cut them out, roll them up and place in balloons, then inflate and tie off balloons. Get some children to hold the balloons. Then the rest pretend to hold a trumpet. At a signal, they blow their trumpets and burst the balloons. Unroll the words and rearrange them to make the verse.

**Song:** God can do anything ('Chuffed CD'; Doug Horley; 2011 Elevation)

**Prayer:** Place a candle or torch inside a jar as a focus for prayer and to remind them of the story. Ask them to think of challenges in their lives that they feel they need help with. Encourage them to ask God for help. Finish by saying the memory verse and thanking Him for his help.

### Application:

Ask the children if they thought it was surprising how Gideon defeated the army. Ask what weapons the Israelites had. (*No weapons, only torches, pots & trumpets!*). God made the enemy fight among themselves, and that was how Gideon and his army won; Gideon followed God's instructions. How did Gideon feel about God? How do you feel about God? Do you think God can help you with the challenges you face? We need to listen to God and trust in Him like Gideon did.

When Gideon heard the soldier's dream about the bread knocking down the tent and what it meant, he fell to his knees and worshipped God. Then he went back to the Israelite camp and said, "Get up! God has given us victory over the enemies' army."

He divided his three hundred men into three groups and gave each man a trumpet and a jar with a torch inside it. He told them, "When I get to the edge of the camp, watch me and do what I do. When my group and I blow our trumpets, then you blow yours all around the camp and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon!'"

Gideon and his one hundred men came to the edge of the camp before midnight, just after the guard had been changed. Then they blew the trumpets and broke the jars they were holding, and the other two groups did the same. They all held the torches in their left hands, the trumpets in their right, and shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" Every man stood in his place around the camp, and the whole enemy army ran away yelling. There was total confusion in the camp. While Gideon's men were blowing their trumpets, the Lord made the enemy troops attack each other with their swords. They ran away to another town, chased by the rest of the Israelites. The enemy army was totally defeated because Gideon followed God's plan.

**Actions for Possible / Impossible**

- Pat one hand on their head while using the other hand to rub their stomach
- Raise one eyebrow while lowering the other
- Roll their tongue
- Touch their right elbow with their right hand
- Touch their toes without bending their knees.
- Wiggle their ears

**Mime suggestions**

Five stones -	(David & Goliath)
A stick -	(Crossing the Red Sea)
Trumpets -	(Walls of Jericho)
Five loaves & two fish -	(Feeding the five thousand)







Week 6

## Gideon (God's Word Is Important)



**For your info:** Many of us will have received a New Testament from The Gideons when we went to Secondary school. If you still have your copy, it would be great if you could take it in to show the children (you may want to hide the year it was presented ☺).

To find out more about the Gideons, look at [www.gideons.org.uk](http://www.gideons.org.uk) **Today's notes focus on The Gideons International**

**Activities:** **Where to Go:** Label four corners of the room 'hospital' / 'school' / 'prison' / 'hotel'. The children stand in the middle. If one of these places is called out, the children run to that corner. If 'soldier' is called out, they salute; if ambulance they make a siren 'Nee Naa' sound.

**Straw / Bible Relay:** Place in teams. Give each player a straw. Each team forms a line at one end of the room with a chair. A chair for each team is at the other end with enough bible cut-outs (see resources) for each team (equal numbers). Say 'Go' and they take it in turns to get a bible by sucking it with the straw and carrying it back to the other chair – NO HANDS. The next player then goes. The game continues until each player has dropped a square onto the chair. The first team to be sitting down is the winner.

**Confusion:** You need 1x tennis ball, 1x soft football. A player stands in the centre of a circle, holding a tennis ball. He/she throws this ball to someone in the circle. Meanwhile, another ball is also being passed around the circle from one child to another. The player in the centre may throw the ball to anyone. If either ball is dropped, the one who dropped it changes places with the child in the centre.

### Exploring the Story:

**Introduction:** Have you ever stayed in a hotel or a hospital? If you have you will probably have had a bedside cupboard. In that cupboard there would probably be a book. Does anyone know what that book would be? (Bible) That Bible would have been placed there by a group of people who took their name from the man we have been looking at all this term...(Gideon). *(If you have your own Gideon New Testament, you could show it to them)*

**Story:** See resources for the story of Josiah finding the Word of God and how the Gideons started.

### Worship:

**Learn a verse from the Bible:** *Psalm 119 v 105*

***"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path."***

Copy the lamp picture in resources onto card, one colour per team. Then cut the picture into about ten pieces. Line the teams up at one end of the room and put the pieces at the other end. Each team member runs and collects one piece, waiting for the previous person to return. They then rearrange the cut pieces to form the verse.

**Song:** Help me be your eyes Lord Jesus  
(Fandabidozzie CD, Doug Horley.)

**Craft Prayer:** See resources for a Chinese lantern prayer craft. Then pray, "Father, we thank you for giving us the Bible to be our guide through life. May your word light our path and show us the way we should go. Amen."

**Application:** God's Word, the Bible, is important. The Israelites knew that and so did the men who started The Gideons charity. They knew that people need rules to live by and help to keep following those rules. The Bible helps us to know how God wants us to live; it gives us the example to follow in Jesus, and tells us where to find help when we are trouble. When you get to your next school, you will probably receive a New Testament, the part of the Bible about Jesus and his followers. This is a free gift from The Gideons, who continue to help people know about God.

**'Story' (based partly on 2Chronicles 34)**

The Israelite Bible, written by Moses, taught the Israelites how to live as God wanted them to. But it had been lost for a long, long time. They had forgotten the rules that God had given them, they kept making mistakes (*a bit like in the Confusion game*). Then one day Josiah the King sent the High Priest to the Temple to pay the workers who were repairing the Temple. While he was getting the money out of a store cupboard, he found the Israelite Bible and quickly took it to the King. When he read it, Josiah immediately called everyone in the city together and there was a great celebration as they now had God's word again and could be guided by it once more. They knew that the word of God, the Bible, was important.

In 1899, a group of Christians, who often travelled about and stayed in hotels, met and decided that a really good way of helping people know more about God was by making His book, the Bible, available to them. They call themselves 'The Gideons' because, like Gideon, they wanted to do exactly what God had asked them to do, not worrying about the results but just being obedient.

Since 1899, they have placed over *1.6 billion* Bibles in *190* countries around the world. They give them to hospitals, hotels, schools and prisons as well as to soldiers, police, ambulance and firemen. They know that the word of God, the Bible, is important.





**Your word is a lamp to  
guide me and a light  
for my path.**

**Psalms 119 v 105**

Cut along bottom line ( Psalm 119 v 105 ) for handle. Fold in half where indicated.

Cut along dotted lines. Unfold and paste A to A and B to B. Add handle.

"Your Word is a lamp to guide me

and a light for my path."

FOLD

CUT HERE

Psalm 119 v 105

