GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Gideon and the Small Army

Judges 6:11-16;7:1-22



YOUR BIBLE READING

Israel’s rescue depended on God, not the size of its army.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

A Reluctant Leader and a Smaller Army



Judges 6:11-16;7:1-22

Gideon was beating wheat in a winepress to hide it from the Midianites. An angel appeared and told him that God was with him. Gideon asked why Israel had suffered so much if that was true. He remembered accounts of God bringing the people out of Egypt, but said they were now in Midian's power. His question brought the people's present trouble beside the stories he had heard about their past.

God told Gideon to go and rescue Israel. Gideon answered that his family was poor in Manasseh and that he was the least in his father's house. God promised to be with him. Later, Gideon and the people with him camped near the spring of Harod, while Midian's camp lay in the valley to the north. A large group had gathered, but God told Gideon there were too many men.

God said that Israel might boast that its own strength had saved it. Gideon was to tell those who were afraid that they could return home. Twenty-two thousand left, and ten thousand remained. God said the group was still too large. He told Gideon to take them down to the water, where another separation would be made. The account places the choice in God's instructions, not in Gideon's guess about how a strong army should look.

At the water, the men drank in different ways. Three hundred brought water to their mouths with their hands, lapping, while the others knelt to drink. God chose the three hundred and told Gideon to send the rest home. Those who remained kept provisions and trumpets. The force that would go against Midian was now much smaller than the group that had first gathered beside the spring.

Remember: I can ask God for courage when I feel small.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Trumpets, Torches, and Confusion

Judges 6:11-16;7:1-22



That night, God told Gideon to go down toward the enemy camp. If he was afraid, he could take his servant Purah and listen to what was said there. Gideon went with Purah to the camp's edge. The great number of enemies and their camels filled the valley. There, one man was telling another about a dream involving a cake of barley bread tumbling into the camp and overturning a tent.

The other man said the dream meant that God had given Midian into Gideon's hand. When Gideon heard the dream and its explanation, he worshiped. Then he returned and told his men to get up because God had given the camp into their hands. The account shows him receiving encouragement before the action. His earlier fear was not hidden, and he had been allowed to take a companion when he went to listen.

Gideon divided the three hundred into three groups. Each man received a trumpet and an empty jar with a torch inside. They were to watch Gideon and do as he did. At the beginning of the middle watch, Gideon and the group with him reached the camp's edge. They blew trumpets and broke their jars. The other groups did the same, holding their torches in one hand and trumpets in the other.

They shouted and stood in their places around the camp. The enemy army ran in confusion. As the trumpets sounded, God caused the soldiers to turn their swords against one another, and they fled. This was a violent conflict, not a harmless trick played on sleeping people. The reading ends with that flight. Israel's rescue had not come from gathering the largest number of fighters, but through the help God had promised Gideon.

Pause and think: What kind of companion or practical support helps you take a thoughtful step when you feel afraid?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Think About Support Without Pretending Fear Is Gone



Gideon takes Purah with him when he goes toward the camp. In ordinary life, a difficult task may become more manageable with a suitable companion. Perhaps an adult can attend a new activity with you or a classmate can help explain unfamiliar instructions. What kind of support makes a real difference? Naming it does not mean you are weak or that everyone needs the same kind of help.

The account says why God reduces the army: Israel must not boast that its own power saved it. It does not say the chosen men were better people because of their drinking style. When reading, distinguish the reason the passage gives from an explanation someone might add. You can enjoy the unusual details without turning them into a test of someone's personal worth.

Trumpets and torches make vivid images, but jars, fire, and weapons can cause injury. A safe picture or paper model is a better way to explore the scene. This ancient battle does not tell children to attack frightening people. If someone threatens you, seek help from a trusted adult rather than trying to prove your courage by facing danger alone.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Gideon receives help and encouragement, and Israel's rescue does not depend on having the biggest army.

What kind of companion or practical support helps you take a thoughtful step when you feel afraid?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Why did God make the army smaller?

2. What did Gideon give his men?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ The army was reduced to three hundred men.
- ☐ They sounded trumpets and showed their torches; the enemy fled.
- ☐ God called Gideon to rescue Israel.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw a trumpet, a jar, and a torch as three separate objects.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I can ask God for courage when I feel small.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Judges 6:14-16

A thoughtful conversation

Do not turn the drinking test into a lesson that one drinking style made better soldiers; the text emphasizes God's choice and Israel's dependence. Use drawings rather than real flames or breaking jars.

Activity answers

1. So Israel would not boast that its own strength had saved it.
2. Trumpets and jars with torches inside.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help us ask for courage and remember your help. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Judges 6:11-16;7:1-22. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 07_Ju_07_06_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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