

Story 8: Gideon's Three Hundred Men

Main Bible verse
[Judges 6:12]

The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon. He said,
"Mighty warrior, the Lord is with you."

The Israelites disobeyed God and worshiped idols, so God punished them by sending the Midianites. The Midianites treated the Israelites badly for seven years. When the time came for the Israelites to harvest their crops the Midianites would come and take all the crops away. They also took all the herds and lambs of the Israelites without leaving a single one behind. The Israelites began to realize that their woes and sorrows were a result of their sins. They began crying out to the Lord for salvation. God heard the cries of the Israelites and chose Gideon to lead them, but because Gideon was fearful he could not trust the word of God completely. Gideon said, "If you will save Israel by my hand, then look at the fleece of wool which I am laying on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone and the ground is all dry then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand." When he rose the next morning Gideon found that the fleece was wet from the dew but that the ground was all dry. But this did not convince Gideon. He spoke to the Lord once more. "Lord, please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew." The next day, Gideon found that it was dry on the fleece only, but on the ground there was dew. Gideon finally believed that the Lord was with him and began to fully trust Him. God told Gideon to pick his warriors to fight against the Midianites. Gideon did so, and chose many Israelite soldiers to fight the Midianites with him.



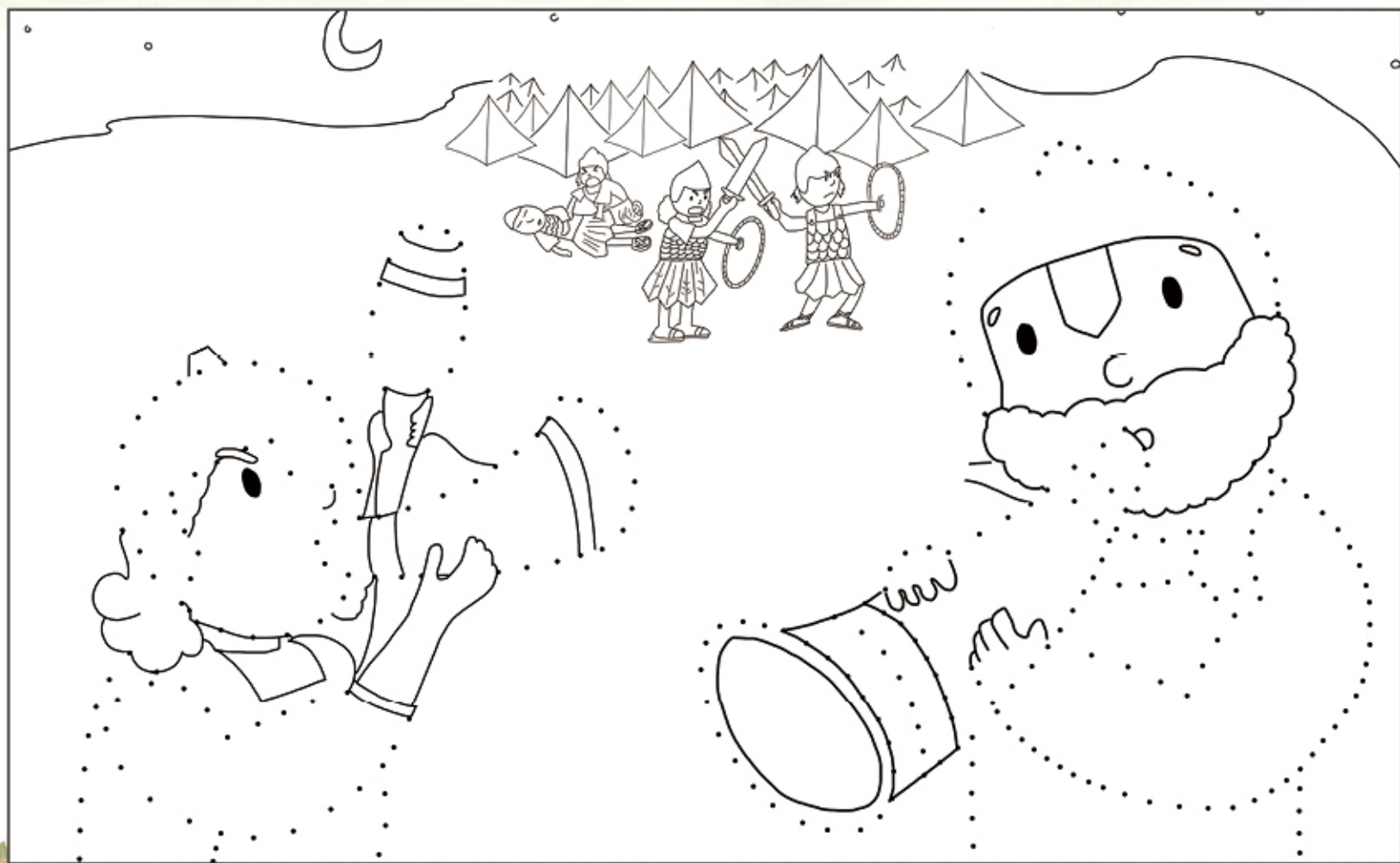
But the Lord said to him, "Gideon! There are too many soldiers with you. If you go out into battle and win, they will surely boast that their own hands saved them without the help of the Lord. Therefore, send those soldiers who are fearful to their homes and reduce the number of men with you." As soon as Gideon made his proclamation as told by God, 2,000 soldiers left and 10,000 soldiers remained. God spoke again, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water where I will test them." Gideon took the men down to the water and told them to drink from it. The Lord told him to pick only those men who drank by putting their hands to their mouths. In this way, there were three hundred soldiers left. God spoke to Gideon that night. "Arise, go down against the Midian camp." Gideon told his men to hold their trumpets in one hand and the jars covering their torches in the other. During the middle of the night when the Midianite men changed the watch, Gideon and his three hundred men blew their trumpets and smashed the jars and shouted out loud holding their torches and trumpets, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" The Midianite soldiers cried out in fear and fled, using their swords against each other. With the help of God, Gideon was able to triumph against the many Midianite soldiers with just three hundred men.

Trace and memorize the Bible verse. (Judges 6:12)

"Strong and brave warrior, the Lord is with you."

Activity 1.

Connect the dots to complete the picture.



Activity 2.

Think about what we learned today, and color the picture below.

