

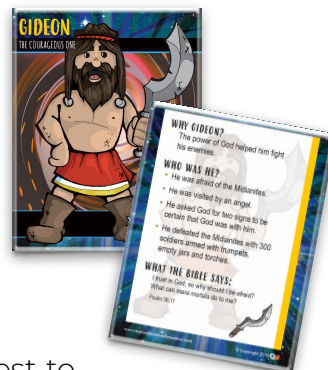
# Gideon

Making The Bible Come Alive

## The Courageous One

### Who was this person?

- Gideon was a farmer and a warrior, as well as being a judge.
- Gideon was Israel's fifth judge.
- Gideon was the son of Joash—an Israelite.
- He was a man who listened to God and tried his best to follow what God told him to do.



### What is this person known for?

- Gideon asked God for 'signs' or some kind of miracle so that he would know that God was speaking to him. (Judges 6:11-22, 26-40)
- An angel appeared to him and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior". (Judges 6:12). God promised to be with him, so Gideon obeyed even though he felt weak and unable to conquer the Midianite army.
- He was afraid that his own limitations would prevent God from working in his life. But God promised him that if he was obedient and acted as God had told him to, that God would help him defeat the Midianites. God even instructed him exactly how to choose his army. (Judges 7:1-9)
- Gideon's army defeated the Midianites even though he only had an army of 300 men. Gideon had started out with 32,000 in his army, but thousands were filled with fear and left, and God told him to let others go as well. (Judges 7:1-9)
- Following God's instructions to equip his army each with a trumpet and a torch hidden in a clay jar. When the signal was given, they were to break the jars, blow their trumpets and give a loud battle cry.
- Gideon was known to be obedient and faithful to God. He is mentioned in Hebrew 11 in the "Hall of Faith" (verse 32).

### WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?

- **To remind us that God will use us.** There are many times we don't feel qualified or equipped to do what God asks us. We must





follow His instructions and trust Him, no matter what. This is important all the time, not just when we encounter a difficult situation. (Proverbs 3:5; Philippians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 1:27)

- **To remind us that with God we are more than able.** When we follow Christ He works in us and through us. God will make a way for us to do great things, even though we can have times of doubt. God wants to use us and help us overcome our doubts and fears. God called Gideon to be a leader and a judge. (Judges 6:14-23; Psalm 37:5; Psalm 54:4; Philippians 4:13)
- **To remind us that God is our first resource.** Teach us to go to God and to His Word so He can show us what He wants to accomplish in and through us. To teach us that when we are faithful God gives us more responsibility. (John 8:32; John 14:6; Matthew 6:33; 1 Chronicles 16:11; Proverbs 8:17)
- **To remind us that God has equipped each person .** God made each person perfect. He made you and me with the exact talents and abilities to accomplish great things. As younger people some-times we wish we can do more. We look at the example of an older person and wish we were as good at something as they are. We can't and shouldn't compare ourselves to someone else. A more mature person has developed their talents through practice, experience, determination, education and more. It is important to remember that you can do great things for God at any age. There are kids that God has in mind for you to reach with the skills and abilities you have today. Don't wait until you are older to show and tell others about Him. (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 13:21)
- **To remind us that no one is exempt from sin.** Throughout scripture (and in real life) we can see how people have done amazing things for God. Yet over time when they don't keep Him at the centre of their lives bad habits can develop. Instead of going to God for wisdom, they may consult with other people who have different ideas and morals before long this leads them to make unhealthy choices. Pretty soon these other things cloud their judgement and they make choices that aren't in line with God's Word. We must keep our focus and trust in God so we don't fall into sin. After all..."Little sins, lead to big sins and big sins lead to death" (Romans 3:23; 1 Peter 5:8; Proverbs 28:13; Galatians 5:19-21)
- Read Judges 8:22-27 with the children, and explain how even though Gideon did so many things right, after he was

acknowledged for his power and leadership, he created an idol that all the people of Israel began to worship.

## LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

**Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.**

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

## MORE IN GOD'S WORD

Much of the story of Gideon is found in Judges 6-8, however his life is a powerful reminder that God works through us even when we don't feel very important or equipped. Can you think of another character in the Bible who didn't feel like they could do what God asked them? What happened as a result? Can you find that story in Scripture? What is the Scripture reference for that story?

