

# Gideon: Tuba Warrior



## What is the STORY about?

Gideon is the incredible story of a hero chosen by God to defend his people against an army of 30,000 excessively hairy pickles! However, the reluctant, tuba-playing Gideon is better trained at marching in formation than he is at marching into battle, but the angel insists that Gideon is the one God has chosen to protect his people. Accompanied by a mere six carrots and six peas, will Gideon be able to stand up against an army of thousands?

- *A Lesson in Trusting God*
- *Key Passage: Judges 6-7*
- *Running time: 23 minutes*
- *Bonus Show: "The Story of George Mueller" (8 minutes)*



## What do you THINK?

- *Why didn't Gideon think he should go to battle against the Midianites? (He didn't think he would make a good warrior)*
- *Gideon wanted God to give him two signs to prove that he was the one chosen to lead the army. What did he ask God to do? (Make the lamb's wool wet and the ground dry; make the lamb's wool dry and the ground wet)*
- *Why was Gideon getting worried about facing 30,000 excessively hairy pickles? (The angel kept directing him to decrease the size of his army)*
- *How did Gideon and his army defeat the Midianites? (By following God's instructions... dividing up and using their horns and flashlights)*
- *What does Gideon do in the parade at the beginning of the show that makes you think he is humble? (He stops the parade to correct the announcers who are talking about how brave and fearless Gideon is)*



## What does the BIBLE say?

The story of Gideon is recorded in Judges 6 and 7. Read the story directly from your Bible in an easy-to-read version OR tell it in this condensed version.

***The Midianites were making life miserable for the people of Israel. Gideon was one of Israel's ruler-judges. An angel appeared and told him that the Lord would help him defeat the Midianites. Gideon was afraid to go to battle, and he asked God for two signs so that he would know for sure that God would lead him. First, he put a sheep fleece on the ground. One morning the fleece was wet and the ground was dry. The following morning, the fleece was dry and the ground was wet. Because of these two signs, Gideon was convinced that God had chosen him to march into battle. So Gideon gathered his army. God told him that his army was too large, so Gideon sent home all the men who trembled with fear. God told him there were still too many men and instructed him to eliminate those who knelt down to drink from the water and to keep the men who lapped the water like dogs. Gideon's army of 32,000 men was now decreased to 300! With trumpets and jars holding torches, his small army defeated the Midianite army of thousands. Gideon's army won a great victory that day because they trusted in God.***

# The Story of Gideon



## ACTIVITY

God told Gideon that his army was too big and he needed to eliminate some men. Recall with the students how these men were eliminated.

(He sent home those who were afraid and those who knelt down at the water to drink.) Pretend that your group is “Gideon’s Army,” and instruct the children to stand in a line/lines. Have fun eliminating “soldiers” for various reasons: cannot “roll” their tongue, write left-handed, can’t whistle, can’t wiggle their ears, have green eyes, have red hair, don’t have any freckles, wear glasses, aren’t wearing tennis shoes, can snap fingers, etc. When the fun is over, talk about the reason for Gideon’s small army. (God wanted Gideon to defeat the Midianites with a small army so that he would know it was God who gave him the victory.)



## What can we DO?

Ask the children for examples of real-life situations when they are afraid. (Examples: afraid of the dark, afraid to go to the dentist, afraid of being teased, afraid to go to camp, afraid

of not being chosen for a team). Discuss possible solutions, encouraging the children to think about courage, trust, and what God would want them to do. Then ask these questions:

- *What should we do when God asks us to do something that we don’t want to do or we don’t think we can do? (Put our trust in God)*
- *God gave Gideon a sign, but how do we know what God wants us to do? (Read the Bible; pray; listen to family, Christian friends, teachers, pastors, etc.)*

### Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **PSALM 27:1** “The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”
- **JOSHUA 1:9** “...Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

## 3 Things to remember about Gideon

1. Gideon was a **BRAVE WARRIOR** who trusted God
2. **LAMB’S WOOL** was used for the signs to prove that God wanted Gideon to lead his army
3. Gideon’s small army used **TRUMPETS AND TORCHES** to defeat the Midianites

## KEY VERSE

**(Proverbs 3:5 & 6)** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

## KEY NUGGET

God can give us courage if we trust in him when we are afraid.

