



God Uses Gideon to Deliver Israel

Judges 6–8



LESSON GOAL

Students will humbly and gratefully obey God, who chooses to deliver His people.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- The Israelites were disobedient to God, so God allowed them to suffer under the Midianites.
- The Israelites were not sorry about their disobedience and did not deserve to be delivered.
- God used an undeserving man named Gideon to defeat the Midianites.
- God chose only 300 men to defeat Midian to demonstrate His power.

KEY VERSE

“Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand” (Judges 7:15b).

APPLICATION

- Thank God for delivering sinners.
- Do not be like Israel, who disobeyed; instead, obey God.
- Look for ways to serve God.

NEXT WEEK

God Uses Samson to Deliver Israel
Read Judges 13–16.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

**Materials
Needed**

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

At the end of Judges 2, God announced a terrible judgment against Israel. Because they refused to remove the Canaanites from the Promised Land and chose to worship the Canaanite gods, God’s anger was “hot against Israel” (Judg. 2:20). God’s judgment on Israel was that He no longer would drive out the Canaanite nations (2:21). Living among the Canaanites would be a test for Israel to see whether they would keep the Lord’s ways or live and worship like the Canaanites (2:22–23; 3:4).

Throughout the book of Judges, Israel never responded righteously to the test of the Canaanite presence. Instead, they entered a dark cycle of rebellion and punishment. The Israelites repeatedly rejected the Lord and embraced idolatry, suffered the Lord’s punishment, cried out to the Lord, were delivered by Him, and enjoyed a period of rest, only to return once again to idolatry (Judg. 2:11–19). Judges 3–16 illustrates this basic cycle with God’s deliverance of Israel through six judges. The first three judges used to illustrate this cycle are Othniel (3:7–11), Ehud (3:12–30), and Deborah (4:1–5:31). The fourth cycle in Judges is God’s deliverance through Gideon. Because of the spiritual state of both Israel and Gideon, only God was glorified in His deliverance of Israel.

A People Unworthy of Deliverance (Judges 6:1–10)

Judges 6:1 begins with words often repeated in Judges: “Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD.” This fourth cycle begins just as the first three (Judg. 3:7,12; 4:1). The Lord once again responded to Israel’s idolatry by delivering them into the hands of their enemies. For seven years, the Midianites (along with the “Amalekites and the people of the East”) oppressed Israel, forcing Israel to flee to the mountains for safety (Judg. 6:1–3). The Midianite oppression was methodological. After the Israelites had sown their fields each year, the Midianites would encamp, “destroy the produce,” and “leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey” (6:4). With their livestock, tents, and camels, the Midianites were as numerous and destructive as the locusts which strip the land of everything green. While God had promised to bless Israel’s obedience with the destruction of their enemies (Deut. 28:7), Israel was instead living under God’s curse for their disobedience (Deut. 28:25,33–34). How tragic was the oppression that Israel had chosen!

Because of the fierceness of the oppression, Israel cried out to God (Judg. 6:6). Even through Israel resented God’s commands, they needed His deliverance. Before sending deliverance, the Lord sent an unnamed prophet to proclaim the righteousness of God’s judgment (Judg. 6:7–11). He reminded the people of everything that God had done for Israel and rebuked them for their disobedience. Noticeably absent from the prophet’s message is any promise of deliverance. If God delivered Israel, it would be despite their disobedience.

Additional Reference Materials

Judges, Ruth; New American Commentary by Daniel I. Block

Such a Great Salvation: Expositions of the Book of Judges by Dale Ralph Davis

Ruth. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 3* by F. B. Huey Jr.

Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament by John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, eds.

Judges. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 3* by Herbert Wolf

A Man Unworthy of Being Deliverer (Judges 6:11–40)

Before advancing to the deliverance of Israel, the narrative continues with a painful look at the state of Israel, including the unworthiness of the deliverer whom God had chosen. The angel of the Lord came to Gideon, who was cautiously threshing grain in a winepress (a large depression in a rock) “in order to hide it from the Midianites” (Judg. 6:11). What a poignant picture of Israel’s fragile state! The angel of the Lord encouragingly called Gideon a “mighty man of valor” and blessed him, saying, “The LORD is with you” (6:12). Instead of being encouraged, Gideon assaulted the character of God by asking why Israel had been oppressed and why God hadn’t done miracles on Israel’s behalf (6:13). Gideon blamed God for Israel’s oppression. Not responding to Gideon’s complaint, the Lord commissioned Gideon to save Israel from the Midianites. Not understanding that it was God alone who would deliver Israel, Gideon complained that he was too young (“least in my father’s house”) and too weak (“my clan is the weakest in Manasseh”) to deliver them (6:15). The Lord again promised that His presence would be with Gideon and that Midian would be defeated (6:16).

Gideon spoke as someone who neither knew nor trusted God. He not only asked God for a sign (6:17), but he also was rather bold in determining what sign he wanted God to perform (6:18–19). Only after fire rose from the rock and consumed the offering did Gideon show fear for God (6:21–22). More is revealed about Gideon’s past as the Lord commanded him to tear down his father’s altar to Baal and the Asherah pole and replace them with an altar to the Lord (6:25–27). Gideon’s family (and probably Gideon) were immersed in idolatry and pagan worship. If Gideon was to be used by God, he needed to visibly break from that demonic system. Gideon obeyed God but did so at night “because he feared his father’s household and the men of the city too much to do it by day” (6:27). When the people of the city sought to kill Gideon for destroying the shrine (6:28–32), they revealed how unworthy of deliverance they were.

The God Who Delivers (Judges 6:33–7:22)

Gideon’s fear and doubt are important in showing that it was God alone who would deliver Israel. From man’s perspective, Gideon was the most unlikely person to be used by God. Yet the “Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon” (Judg. 6:34). Gideon’s success in calling his clan, as well as the rest of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, can be attributed only to the presence of God’s empowering Spirit (6:34–35). Gideon’s fearful character became even more obvious when he tested God again by seeing if He would make the fleece either wet or dry, contrary to the morning ground (6:36–40). God’s patience is amazing. Although Gideon knew perfectly well what God had commanded him to do, he did not trust God’s previous promises. God justly could have ignored Gideon’s repeated requests and allowed His people to continue in their punishment. Instead, God chose to deliver His people and give Gideon the encouragement he wanted.

God used fearful Gideon to show that He alone would deliver Israel. For the same reason, God reduced the number of Israelite troops from 32,000 to 300. The Lord would not let “Israel claim glory for itself...saying, ‘My own hand has saved me’” (Judg. 7:2). God wanted Israel to have no claim to victory over the Midianites except God’s own deliverance. First, the Lord sent away all who were afraid of the upcoming battle; 22,000 left (7:3). Second, the Lord separated those who lapped water like a dog from those who knelt down to drink from the river (7:4–5). The 300 who lapped water like a dog were chosen to battle against the Midianites.

Intent on delivering the people, God once again strengthened the heart of fearful Gideon. God sent Gideon into the Midianite camp (Judg. 7:9–12), gave one of the men in the camp a dream of the defeat of Midian (7:13–14), and sovereignly arranged the events so that Gideon heard both the dream and its interpretation (7:15). Encouraged, Gideon worshiped God, returned to the camp of Israel, and announced, “Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand” (7:15). Gideon embraced God’s deliverance of the people and commanded that the 300 men divide into even smaller groups of 100 each. He gave each man a pitcher, torch, and trumpet (7:15–18). With newfound courage, Gideon led the men around the Midianite camp. Probably at midnight (“the beginning of the middle watch”), Gideon and the men blew their trumpets, smashed the pitchers with the torches inside, and shouted, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!” (7:19–22). The shout, the bright light, and the crashing pitchers terrified the Midianites in the camp so that they “ran and cried out and fled” (7:21). In the midst of the dark chaos, “the LORD set every man’s sword against his companion throughout the whole camp” (7:22). Judges 8:10 reveals that 120,000 men “who drew the sword had fallen” with only 15,000 of the Midianites escaping. When Gideon and the troops shouted, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon,” they shouted with confidence that God had given the battle to Gideon. Ironically, God won the battle (“the sword”) without Israel even having to swing a sword!

A Man Unworthy of Being Deliverer, Part 2 (Judges 7:23–8:35)

Gideon did much good for Israel (Judg. 8:35). God used him to subdue Midian and give Israel peace for 40 years (8:28). While Gideon was still alive, the people refrained from their rampant Baal worship. Although the final analysis was positive, much of the rest of Gideon’s life pointed to his unworthiness as a deliverer.

Although the text does not reveal whether God commanded the pursuit of the Midianites (Judg. 7:23–8:21), the narrative paints an alarming picture of Israel and Gideon. The tribe of Ephraim, obviously unaware that it was God who had given Gideon the victory, was offended not to have been part of the defeat of Midian. Gideon’s diplomatic answer does not seem to glorify God in the victory as much as would be expected (Judg. 8:2–3). When two Israelite towns, Succoth and Penuel, refused to help Gideon in his pursuit of the Midianites, Gideon angrily promised to have revenge on the towns. Gideon’s pursuit of the two Midianite kings to the Midianite border seems more fueled by vengeance (8:18–19) than a desire to deliver Israel. Returning with the captured kings, he tortured the leaders of Succoth and killed the inhabitants of Penuel—his fellow Israelites (8:16–17)! Gideon’s request to his firstborn son to kill the Midianite kings is alarming, and his taking of the ornaments worn on the necks of the king’s camels suggests that Gideon was showing his own power. He seems to have lost all concern for the glory of God! The narrative has shifted from its focus on God working to deliver Israel to the cruelty of Gideon and the fighting among the Israelites.

When Israel requested that Gideon and his family be their king, Gideon refused, saying, “The LORD shall rule over you” (Judg. 8:23). While such sentiments are admirable, Gideon’s actions betray a desire to be king, in practice if not in word. He required a part of each Israelite’s plunder and kept the clothes of the Midianite kings (8:24–26). Even more alarming is that Gideon made an ephod with the gold and set it up in his home city where “all Israel played the harlot with it there. It became a snare to Gideon and to his house” (8:27). Somehow, the ephod became an object of worship. Gideon also disobeyed God and took a concubine from the Canaanite town of Shechem (8:31).

Both Gideon and Israel remind the reader of the remarkableness of God’s deliverance of Israel from the Midianites. God’s choice to deliver Israel and His choice

of Gideon as the instrument of deliverance are not because Israel or Gideon deserved the honor, but because God gave grace to the people. While Gideon trusted in God, the real hero of this narrative is God, who glorified Himself by delivering an unworthy people and by using an unworthy deliverer. God's deliverance of Israel was dependent on Israel's obedience to Him.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

Did the people of Israel promise to obey God?

Yes, the Israelites promised that they would serve and obey the Lord.

What did God command the Israelites to do with the Canaanites?

The Israelites were commanded to destroy the Canaanites and tear down their idols.

Did the Israelites do what God commanded?

No. It was not easy for them to get rid of the Canaanites. The Israelites let the Canaanites live in some of the towns where they lived.

In what other way did the Israelites disobey God?

They began to worship the Canaanites' idols.

Who came to the Israelites to remind them of what God had done for them in the past?

The angel of the Lord.

How did God punish the Israelites?

He allowed them to be taken over by the Canaanites.

What did the Israelites do?

They cried out to God and begged Him to relieve their suffering.

What did God do in response to their cries?

He raised up a leader, called a judge, to lead and strengthen the Israelites.



Hiding in Caves

Cover one or two tables with blankets or sheets to make "caves." Let the students hide under the "caves." In today's story the Israelites hid in caves because they were afraid of the Midianites. The Midianites stole their food and their animals.



What Do Your Prayers Say?

The Israelites repeatedly sinned against God and consequently were oppressed by their enemies. When their situation became unbearable, they cried out to God for deliverance. They did not, however, display any repentance, worship, or gratitude. Some did not turn to God even in the harshest circumstances. Ask the students what they pray to God for. Do they merely ask for things from God? Do they pray for other people and thank God for the good things He provides? Do they completely forget to pray?



Midianite Oppression

To help the students understand how the Midianites oppressed Israel, have some volunteers pretend to be Israelites. Have them pick imaginary fruit, bake imaginary bread, and feed imaginary animals. Have other volunteers pretend to be Midianite soldiers. Brandishing play swords, the soldiers rush into the classroom and take the fruit, bread, and animals. The Israelites should scatter and either hide or run from the room. Explain that God was punishing the Israelites by allowing the surrounding nations to oppress them.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

The Israelites were very disobedient. God had given them instructions about what they should do when they entered the Promised Land. Does anyone remember what those instructions were? God had commanded the Israelites to destroy the Canaanites and their idols. Did the Israelites obey God? No, they did not. And God punished them for their disobedience by allowing other people to rule over them.

Today we will learn about the Midianites, who ruled over Israel. They were very wicked people who refused to worship God. Instead, they worshiped idols made with their own hands. The Midianites treated the Israelites terribly! They stole their food, their tents, and their animals. The Israelites were so scared that they ran away from the Midianites and lived up in caves, in the mountains where it was safer. God allowed the Israelites to suffer because they had disobeyed Him. If they had obeyed God, as they had promised they would, then God would have blessed them and destroyed their enemies. Things had become very bad for Israel, and they cried out for help. Whom do you think they cried out to? They cried out to God. However, they only cried out to God because they needed His help, not because they were sorry for disobeying Him. The Israelites did not deserve God’s help, but God still showed them mercy. He listened to their cries and sent them a deliverer named Gideon.

One day, the angel of the Lord came to Gideon. Gideon was hiding from the Midianites, trying to make food to eat. The angel said to him, "The Lord is with you." Gideon should have been encouraged by this message, but instead, he was angry. He said, "If God is with us, then why are all these bad things happening to us? God has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." Gideon blamed God for the wicked things the Midianites had done to Israel. But was it God's fault that bad things were happening to Israel? No! It was Israel's fault for not following God's commands.

The angel ignored what Gideon said and told him that God had chosen him to save Israel from the Midianites. Gideon's faith in God was weak. He complained that he was too young and too weak to lead Israel. But God told Gideon not to worry; He would be with him and would give him victory over the Midianites.

God also told Gideon to destroy the altar of Baal that Gideon's father had built. In its place, Gideon was to build an altar to God. Gideon did as the Lord said. But he was too afraid to tear the altar down during the day, so he did it at night.

Before Gideon prepared to go to battle, he asked God for a sign to confirm that he would defeat the Midianites. This was another example of Gideon's weak faith. Gideon did not need a sign that God would give him victory. God already had told Gideon He would do this, and God always does what He says He will do. God knew that Gideon's faith was weak, and He agreed to give Gideon a sign. Gideon put a fleece of wool outside on the ground. In the morning, if the fleece were wet and the ground was dry, Gideon would know that God would save Israel. The next morning, Gideon went outside to check the fleece. When he picked it up, it was wet. It was so wet that Gideon wrung a bowlful of water from it. This sign from God should have been enough for Gideon to have confidence in battle, but again, he showed his weak faith. Gideon asked God for one more sign. At the same time the next morning, if the fleece were dry and the ground wet, Gideon would know that God would save Israel. The next morning Gideon went outside to check the fleece. The fleece was dry and only the ground was wet. God had again confirmed that He would give Gideon victory. Now Gideon was confident to go to battle.

Gideon gathered 32,000 men of Israel to go to battle. But God told Gideon that this amount was too many. God did not want Israel to think they could win the battle by themselves, so He told Gideon to send back anyone who was afraid to go to battle. Only 10,000 people remained. But this still was too many. God told Gideon to take the rest of the men to the water. Everyone who lapped the water like a dog would be allowed to go to battle. Only 300 people lapped the water like a dog. These were the people God would allow to go to battle.

God prepared these Israelites for battle with the Midianites. He sent His Spirit to Gideon and made Gideon strong and confident. God also gave Gideon a plan. He divided his very small army into little groups. He gave each man a pitcher, a torch, and a trumpet. These were the weapons the Israelites were going to use to defeat the Midianites. They went into the Midianites' camp in the middle of the night, blew the trumpets, and smashed the pitchers with the torches. The noise was so loud that it scared the Midianites. The shouting, bright light of fire, and crashes from the pitchers scared the Midianites so much that they ran around in confusion. They were so scared and so confused that they started fighting one another. The Midianites destroyed themselves that night. God used Gideon to save the Israelites from their enemies, even though Gideon was unworthy to be a leader and the Israelites were unworthy to be saved.

After that battle, God left Gideon in charge of the Israelites. Gideon led the Israelites to obey God in some ways for the rest of his life, and Israel was at peace during that time. The Israelites stopped worshiping idols while Gideon was their

leader. But Gideon did not always do the right thing. He often disobeyed God. He became very prideful and wanted the glory for himself, and he did not glorify God. But God chose to show mercy to Gideon and the Israelites, even though they did not always glorify Him.

What can we learn from Gideon's life and God's deliverance of the Israelites from the Midianites? We learn that God shows grace to His chosen people and saves them, not because they deserve it, but in order to glorify Himself.



Lesson Questions

Who was ruling over the Israelites?
The Midianites.

Did the Midianites treat the Israelites with kindness?
No. The Midianites stole the Israelites' food, tents, and animals.

Whom did God choose to lead Israel in defeating the Midianites?
Gideon.

Was Gideon glad that God had chosen him to lead Israel?
No. Gideon was angry and blamed God for Israel's circumstances.

Did God promise to help Gideon anyway?
Yes.

What did the Israelite soldiers take to battle?
Each soldier took a pitcher, a torch, and a trumpet.

How did the Israelites defeat the Midianites?
They went into the Midianites' camp in the middle of the night, blew the trumpets, and smashed the pitchers with the torches inside. The Midianites were so afraid that they became confused and started fighting one another.

What do we learn about God from this lesson?
God shows grace to His chosen people and saves them, not because they deserve it, but in order to glorify Himself.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Surprise!

Demonstrate what it would have been like to be surrounded by Gideon's army. Turn off the lights at the appropriate time during the lesson. Instruct teachers and helpers to be waiting along the perimeter of the class. Each should have a flashlight. When you give the signal, have them turn on the flashlights and shout, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"



Heroes

What is a hero? A hero is someone who does great things and is admired and imitated by others. None of the people in today's story is a hero. The Israelites are weak and fearful. Even God's chosen servant, Gideon, is scared. He blames God for his troubles, complains, worships idols, and does not glorify God when God delivers Israel. But there is one amazing hero. God is the hero! He deserves all the glory and honor for delivering the Israelites.



God's Patience

It is remarkable that God was so patient with Gideon. When the angel of the Lord came to Gideon, Gideon blamed God for Israel's troubles. Then he grumbled and complained and was afraid. Gideon boldly demanded signs and miracles from God, even up to the final minutes before God would deliver the Midianite army. Then, afterward, Gideon claimed the glory for himself as Israel's deliverer. Gideon clearly was not worthy of God's favor and mercy. And neither are we. God is merciful to us even though we don't deserve to be saved. We should praise God for His mercy and serve Him with all our hearts.

Praise and Worship

Awesome God

Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Make Me a Servant

My God Is So Great

Trust and Obey



God Uses Gideon

Israel's land was trampled and beat.

(Slap down fist on hand.)

They ran away in sad defeat.

(Pretend to run away in fear.)

But God raised a judge to save the land.

(Point as if to choose someone.)

Gideon was this chosen man.

(Knock together knees as if afraid.)

Gideon's army was very small,

(Put fingers together to show something small.)

But in God's power, they stood tall.

(Stand victoriously.)

They won not by the strength of man,

(Point to the muscle and shake the head.)

But by the power of God's great hand.

(Point up to God.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Torch and Jar

Materials: paper lunch bags, toilet-paper or paper-towel tubes, orange and yellow crepe paper streamers

Directions: Have the students color their bags and fold down about two inches of the open edge to create a pot. Tape the verse to outside of bag. Students can color (or cover with foil) the tube or torch handle and tape some yellow and orange crepe-paper streamers inside one end of the torch to represent flames. Punch a hole in one side of the tube and another hole in the folded edge of the paper bag “jar.” Tie a two-foot piece of string from the hole in the tube to the hole in the bag. Have fun practicing how Gideon and his men surrounded the Midianites, blew their trumpets, took the jars off their torches, and shouted.



Who Is Gideon?

Select one student to be a “Midianite” and leave the room while you choose another student to be Gideon. Gideon should lead the class in all kinds of actions such as hopping, clapping, stamping, waving, shaking heads, nodding heads, opening and shutting eyes, etc., until the “Midianite” returns to the room. The Midianite’s job is to figure out which student is Gideon, the leader of the Israelites. At the end, remind the students that the Israelites wanted Gideon to be their leader, but he said that God was their leader!



Do You Think as God Thinks?

God has given us the ability to think, which is a wonderful gift to help us make decisions. We must, however, be careful not to think we are smarter than God. God knows everything, and He always knows what is best, even when it does not make sense to us. Gideon is a good example of this. We would never choose someone as timid and fearful as Gideon to lead an army. Yet God used him to show that it was only through God’s strength that Israel could defeat their enemies. The weakness of Gideon only served to highlight God’s strength. God surely does know best.



Horn Trumpet

Have each student create a horn trumpet like Gideon and his men used when attacking the Midianite camp. Give each student a party horn, a four-foot piece of yarn, and a piece of paper. Cover the party horn with the paper, and punch a hole on each end. Thread the yarn through the holes for carrying. Glue or tape the memory verse to the horn. This horn trumpet, along with the torch and pot crafts, can be used in a dramatization of lesson.



Save My Life

This craft is continued from the first week.

Materials: paper grocery bags, markers or crayons, scissors, glue sticks, yellow construction paper, aluminum foil or metallic paper

Directions:

Week 1: Cut each grocery bag into a vest. Write each student's name on the left front.

Week 2: On the back of the vest, students can write "God is my Rescuer" in large letters. (For younger students, this could be photocopied on a sheet of paper and then glued or taped to the back of the vest.) Cut strips of yellow construction paper to glue onto the bag as decorative stripes.

Week 3: Cut strips of foil or metallic paper to glue to the vests as reflectors.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, 'Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand'" (Judges 7:15b).

**Memory Verse Game**

Have the students sit in a circle on the floor. Pass two bean bags around the circle, one in each direction. The student who ends up with both bags at the same time must say the memory verse. The other students in the circle can help him say the verse. Continue to pass the bags until someone else is caught with both. Repeat the verse.



“Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites” (Judges 6:11).



“Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers...and they cried, ‘The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!’ And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled” (Judges 7:20–21).

