

# 10

## God Clears Out the Midianites



Gideon had no idea how God would use him to get rid of the Midianites. Those wicked people had camped in Canaan for seven years. But Gideon did what God said. First, he threw down Baal's altar. Baal was the false god the Israelites had begun worshiping. Next he cut down the trees where the people met to worship Baal.

Then he built an altar to the true God and offered a burnt offering, using the wood for the fire.

Gideon called a big army together, but God told him he had too many soldiers. Since it was God who planned to clear out the Midianites, He didn't need many men. God did not plan to fight the Midianites; He planned to scare them away.

For that He needed only three hundred men. So Gideon sent the rest of the big army home. Then he gave each soldier a trumpet and a lamp, hidden in a pitcher. He told them what to do.

One night in the darkness a hundred of those men crept to one side of the Midianite camp. A hundred moved silently to another side. The third hundred sneaked quietly to a third side of the sleeping camp.

Then Gideon blew his trumpet. When they heard the blast, the three hundred soldiers also blew their trumpets. They broke their pitchers and held up their lamps. All of them shouted, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!"

The Midianites awoke. They heard the crash of the pitchers and the shrill blasting of the trumpets all around their camp. They leaped from their beds. They saw the lamps shining on all sides.

God filled their hearts with terror. They rushed from their tents and ran away, fighting with anyone who came near them.

After that God's people had peace for forty years.

Find what Gideon and his 300 men used to defeat their enemies.

Follow the dot-to-dot from 1 to 70.



So Gideon and the ... men that were with him ... blew the trumpets and brake the pitchers. Judges 7:19

# 11

## Once Too Often



God told Samson's parents He would use their son to begin driving out the Philistines. Their son must never drink wine. He must never cut his hair. He must never touch a dead body. Those things showed everyone that God had a special job for Samson. Something else made Samson different. God had made him stronger than any other man before or since.

The Philistines hated God's people, yet Samson made friends with some of them. He disobeyed God by marrying a wicked Philistine woman.

After his wife died, Samson made friends with another Philistine woman, named Delilah. The Philistine leaders wanted to know what made Samson so strong. They said to Delilah, "If you find out what makes Samson so strong, each of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

Delilah knew that if Samson lost his strength, the Philistines would

soon get him. But she didn't care what happened to him. She wanted the money. She began begging him to tell her why he was so strong.

At first Samson would not tell her. Two times he told lies about what made him strong. At last he said the secret of his strength lay in his long hair. If his hair were cut he would be as weak as other men. But cutting his hair would break his promise to God.

When Samson went to sleep, Delilah called for a man to cut his hair. Then she called for the Philistines to come and get him. Samson got awake and thought he could fight off the Philistines as he always had done. He did not know that the LORD had left him.

The Philistines put out Samson's eyes and made him work—grinding at the mill. He had disobeyed the LORD once too often.

Samson made a lot of bad choices. What choices should you make?

**Circle the good things to do. Cross out the bad things to do.**

1. Help yourself to a cookie even if your mom said not to.
2. Put your shoes in the closet.
3. Help rake leaves in the yard.
4. Do the dishes without grumbling.
5. Throw your boots in the corner.
6. Wait till you feel like it before taking out the garbage.
7. Go wading when you were told to stay out of the water.
8. Whisper to your friend during the worship service at church.
9. Pout if you can't have your way.
10. Share your things with others.
11. Hang up your coat.

And he [Samson] wist  
not that the Lord was  
departed from him.  
Judges 16:20

