

[HOMEPAGE]

For families of junior soldiers

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:

Gideon— The Boy Who Obeyed

MEMORY VERSE:

Judges 6:12 (NIV)

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

The memory verse for the week is included on each HOMEPAGE. Help your child review it during the week. The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.

PARENT POINT:

Talk to your child about what it means to trust someone. Tell your child about how you trust them.



TODAY IN JUNIOR SOLDIERS, the children learned about trusting God completely and obeying what He commands. Before kings ruled the Israelites judges led the people. The judges of Israel were servants of God. They followed God, tried to help the Israelites follow God as well, and fought the enemies of the Israelites. Twelve different judges led Israel before Samuel anointed the first king, Saul.

One of the 12 judges was a boy named Gideon. Gideon was the son of Joash and Deborah (a judge). While Gideon was hiding in the winepress to separate the wheat so it wouldn't be stolen by the Midianites, God called to him. God told Gideon that He wanted him to lead the Israelites to victory over their enemies, the Midianites.

Gideon was skeptical—he didn't fully believe that God wanted him; he didn't think he was prepared. Gideon asked God for a sign. He said, "'You promised you would use me to save Israel. Please do something for me. I'll put a piece of wool on the threshing floor. Suppose dew is only on the wool tomorrow morning. And suppose the ground all around it is dry. Then I will know that you will use me to save Israel. I'll know that your promise will come true'" (Judges 6:36-37 NIV).

The next morning when Gideon woke up, the fleece was wet with dew and the ground was dry. Gideon still wasn't certain, he said, "'Don't let your anger burn against me. Let me ask you for just one more thing. Let me use the wool for one more test. This time make the wool dry. And cover the ground with dew'" (Judges 6:39 NIV).

In the morning, the fleece was dry and the ground was wet. Gideon gathered the men of Israel to go into battle, but God told him not to take all the men with him. Gideon took the men down to the river where God separated the men. Those who knelt down to drink were sent home. Those who brought the water to their mouths with their hands went into battle. Of the 32,000 men who wanted to fight, God told Gideon to take 300 with him into battle. He went into battle with 300 men, each carrying a horn, an empty jar, and a torch. Gideon and his small army defeated the Midianites as God promised.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson helped junior soldiers understand the importance of obeying God. Through Gideon's example, junior soldiers learned what it means to trust God and obey His commands.