



# Bible Discovery Zone Lesson Plans

## “Gideon”

**Memory Verse:** “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

### Learning Centers Overview:

**Holy Word Cinema:** Students will view the SuperBook DVD “Gideon” and answer the review questions.

**Computer Bible Lab:** Students will design a digital storybook of Gideon using Kid Pix. Review the story of Gideon by solving an onscreen Crossword Puzzle.

**Creation Station:** Students will make their own shofars (rams horns) that they can blow to help retell the story of Gideon and the Lord’s victory over their enemies.

**Discovery Destination:** Students will play versions of Volleyball, Rocks, Paper, Scissors and Memory Verse Game to retell and understand the story of Gideon.

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### Bible Background

**Bible Background**—Judges 6-8 (especially chapter 7)

#### What’s Going On Here?

After God worked through Moses to free the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, and worked through Joshua to lead them into the Promised Land, one would think that the people would have been very appreciative and faithful to God. Unfortunately, that was not always the case. The book of Judges is filled with one story after another of the people being unfaithful to God. God would then punish them through their enemies, Israel would repent, and God would deliver them. This story continues that pattern.

At this point in Israel’s history (about 1150 to 1050 B. C.), they are still a loose association of twelve tribes with God as their only common ruler. From time to time, as there became a need, God would raise up a person with the skills and respect needed to lead all of the people against their common foe. These temporary leaders are called “judges” in the Bible—and Gideon was one of the judges.

The people were being harassed by the Midianites, a neighboring people who would destroy the crops of the Israelites and consume it for themselves. The people became

poor and even lived in caves (Judges 6:1-6). When the people cried to God for deliverance, God called Gideon to lead the battle. Gideon took some convincing (6:11-24) but finally consented. Even after the troops had rallied to Gideon's side, though, Gideon still had some tests to double check that God would be with them (Judges 6:36-40).

### **What is the Story?**

Gideon sent messengers throughout the land, and many young men came to fight the Midianites. God told Gideon, though, to send most of them home. God said, "The troops with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand. Israel would only take the credit away from me saying 'My own hand has delivered me.'" First, anyone who was fearful was told to go home. Next, God told Gideon to bring the army to the river and watch how they drank the water. \*\*Those who scooped water into their hands and then to their mouth were sent home, and only those who lapped the water like a dog were kept in the army (7:4-8).\*\* This left only three hundred to confront a far more numerous Midianite force. Gideon divided the army into three units and equipped the men with trumpets and torches hidden in jars. At night they came at the enemy army from different directions. On a signal, every man blew their trumpet, broke their jar, and exposed their torch. The sudden noise and lights from all directions caused such a panic in the Midianite camp that they ended up largely killing each other (7:16-23). The people were in this way delivered from the Midianites. They were so grateful that they tried to get Gideon to be their king, but he declined saying, "I will not rule over you and my son will not rule over you. The Lord will rule over you" (8:23).

**\*\*Note\*\*** Because of the variations of this story between the translations, here are the scriptures quoted from two difference sources:

Judges 7:5-7 "So he brought the troops down to the water; and the Lord said to Gideon, 'All those who lap the water with their tongues, as a dog laps, you shall put to one side; all those who kneel down to drink, putting their hands to their mouths, you shall put to the other side.' The number of those that lapped was three hundred, but all the rest of the troops knelt down to drink water. Then the Lord said to Gideon, 'With three hundred that lapped I will deliver you, and give the Midianites into you hand. Let all the others go to their homes.'" NRSV

Judges 7:5-7: "Gideon took the men down to the water, and the Lord told him, 'Separate everyone who laps up the water with his tongue like a dog, from everyone who gets down on his knees to drink.' There were three hundred men who scooped up water in their hands and lapped it; all the others got down on their knees to drink. The Lord said to Gideon, 'I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites with the three hundred men who lapped the water. Tell everyone else to go home.'" TEV

### **Why is this Story Important?**

This story shows God working in the world to save and deliver his people when they call on him. The conquest is not by overwhelming force. In fact, God specifically turned down the use of overwhelming force in order to make it clear that it was God's hand, not military might, that would save the people. Gideon, the hero of the story, chose not to

take advantage of the opportunity for his own political gain, but gave the glory to God, encouraging the people to see God as the one who would truly be their ruler.

## Holy Word Cinema

**Memory Verse:** “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

### Station Summary

The students will watch and discuss the SuperBook DVD “Gideon”.

### Preparation

1. Review Bible Background notes and read scripture passages mentioned to familiarize yourself with this month’s Bible story.
2. Pray for the children and for your teaching of the lesson.

### Materials List:

- DVD Player
- Projector
- DVD: Gideon

Introduce the DVD by telling the class you’ll be watching the story of Gideon, one of the Judges that God selected to lead His people, for a time, after they had settled in the Promised Land. Show the class where the book of Judges is located in the Bible. Explain what a “Judge”

After the movie is over, make sure you working through the following review questions, engage your students with the following questions:

1. At the beginning of Gideon’s story we find out that Israel had been invaded by what enemy:
  - A. Philistines
  - B. Edomites
  - C. Midianites (Judges 6:1)
  - D. Romans
2. Who tells Gideon that he has been selected to lead the Israelites army to defeat their enemies.
  - A. An angel (Judges 6:11)
  - B. Gideon’s servant Purah
  - C. A prophet
  - D. Moses
3. From which of the 12 tribes of Israel does Gideon say that he is from?
  - A. Judah
  - B. Rueben

- C. Manasseh (Judges 6:15)
  - D. Benjamin
4. In what way does the Lord use to prove that it is really God who is talking to Gideon?
    - A. Consuming meat and unleavened bread covered in broth with fire (Judges 6:20-21)
    - B. Making wool fleece wet but ground dry (Judges 6:37-38)
    - C. Making wool fleece dry but ground wet (Judges 6:39-40)
    - D. All of the above.
  5. What test does God command Gideon to have his army perform to reduce them down to 300 men who will fight for God?
    - A. Archery contest
    - B. Drinking from a stream (Judges 7:4-7)
    - C. Swimming contest
    - D. Running a race
  6. Who did Gideon take with him when he snuck into the Midianite camp to spy on them?
    - A. Moses
    - B. Joshua
    - C. Samson
    - D. His servant Purah (Judges 7:10-11)
  7. How many men did Gideon take with him to fight the Midianites?
    - A. 100
    - B. 200
    - C. 300 (Judges 7:7)
    - D. 400
  8. What items did Gideon instruct his army to take with them when they went to fight the Midianites?
    - A. Ram's Horn
    - B. Torch
    - C. Empty Jar
    - D. All of the above (Judges 7:16)
  9. What did Gideon have his army do defeat the Midianite army?
    - A. Charge in and attack the army with their swords
    - B. Set the camp on fire with their torches
    - C. Blow the trumpets, hold the torches in the air and shout "For the Lord and for Gideon" (Judges 7:20)
    - D. Blow the trumpets and shoot them with arrows
  10. After Gideon's army defeated the Midianites, the people wanted to crown him king of Israel. Who did Gideon tell them was the rightful ruler of Israel?
    - A. Gideon's son
    - B. The Lord (Judges 8:23)
    - C. King David
    - D. King Saul
  11. What other famous Bible story did God have the Israelites blow rams horns to help defeat their enemy?
    - A. Joshua and the battle for Jericho

12. Besides Gideon, can you name any other famous judges that God used to lead Israel in the book of Judges?

A. Samson and Deborah

Ask, "In what way did Gideon's adventure help out Joy, Chris and Gizmo with their problem back home?" (God is with you, and will help you deal with difficult situations)

"What does Gideon's adventure teach you today?"

Review this month's memory verse

Close in Prayer.

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# Computer Bible Lab

**Memory Verse:** “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Teacher preparation: Review the Bible background information and read the Scripture passages for this month’s Bible story. Then preview the software used in the Computer Bible Lab this month so you are familiar with it and able to assist students to maneuver through the programs.

## Software Needed:

- “Kid Pix”
- “Crossword Studio Bible”

## Kid Pix:

.Have students click on Kids Pix icon to open software program. Once opening sequence song finishes, students will need to log in. They can either type their own name or choose from one of the previous names and click the “Go” button to begin.

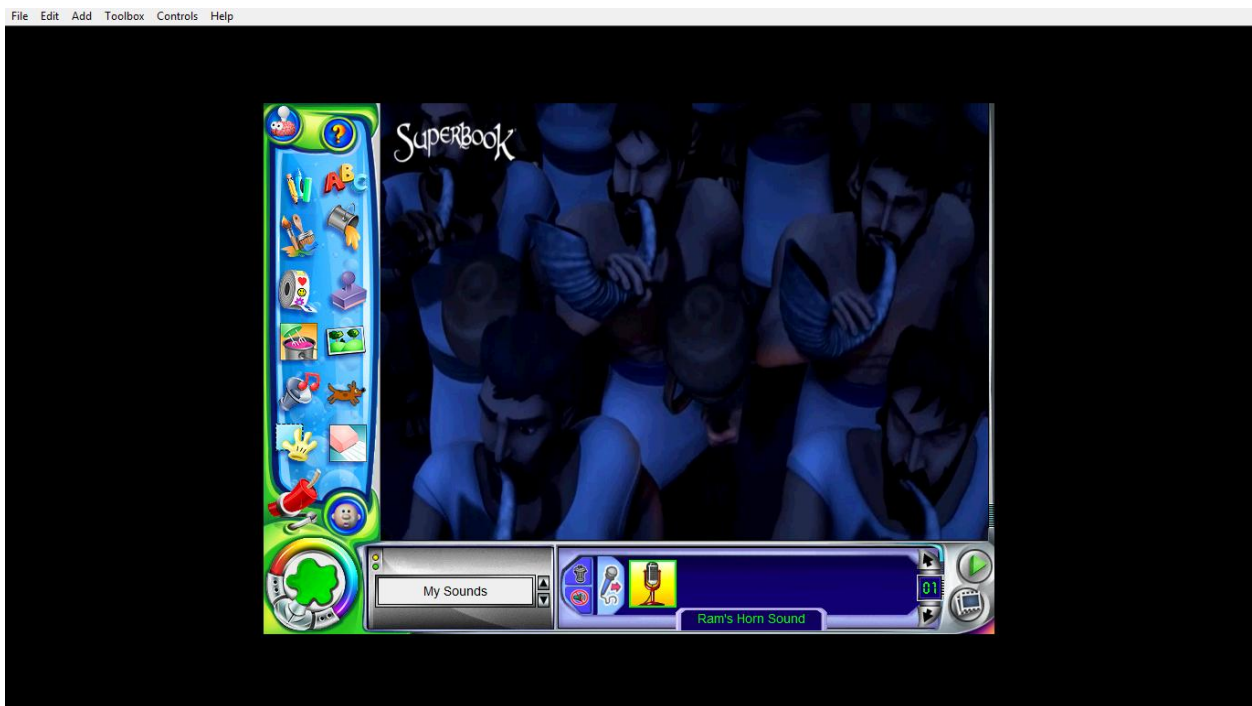


1. Once students are on canvas screen. Have students click the “Add” button on top left menu bar and click on “Add Graphic”. Open the folder entitled “Gideon Pictures.” Students will then need to click on Change “Files of Type” from “Bitmap” to “JPEG” using the drop down menu on dialogue box for the list of pictures to appear. On the same dialogue box have students click “Shrink/Stretch to Fill”

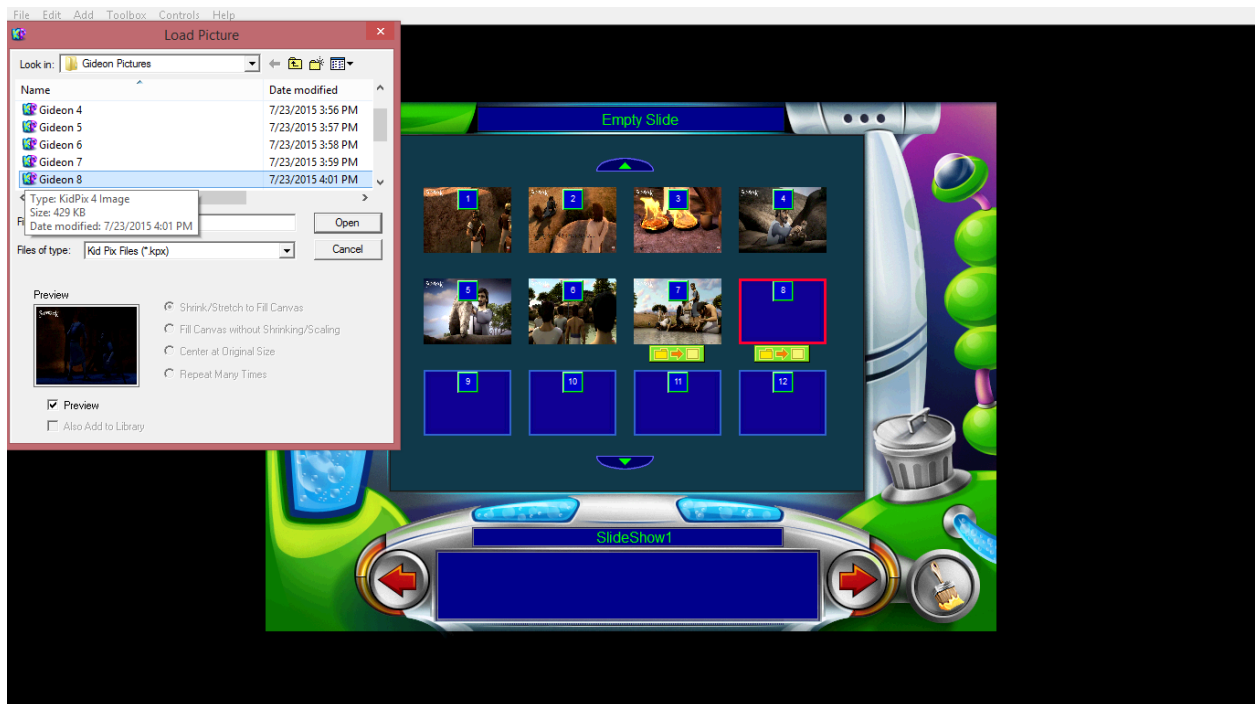
Canvas.” Direct students to then click on “Gideon 1” graphic and then click on the “Open” button to add picture.

**[Note:** There are 12 Gideon pictures listed. They are numbered in sequence to the slides that your students will be making (Gideon 1, Gideon 2, etc.). Each picture is a screen shot of the story of Gideon from the Superbook video that students will be watching this month in HolyWord Cinema, so after the first week some students may comment that the pictures look like they came from the movie that they saw in another Workshop. Affirm that is the case.]

2. After picture is in place. Direct students to the “ABC” icon on the top left side of the screen. Have students click on the “ABC” icon and then click on the canvas to open a dialogue box in which students can type in the storybook narration for that page. Encourage students to stretch the dialogue box with the purple handles at the four corners of the dialogue to make it large enough to type all of the narration for that page.
3. Students should then type in the storybook narration for the page that they are on. Storybook narration is available on a handout with labels “Slide 1”, “Slide 2” etc. so students can easily correspond the dialogue to the picture and page that they are working on. Once storybook narration is typed in dialogue box, encourage kids to click on the green play arrow at bottom right of page so they can hear the narration spoken that they typed.
4. Once slide is complete with both picture and storybook narration in place, have students click on the “File” tab on top left menu bar. Click “Save As” on drop down menu and type “Gideon 1” to name the slide and then click “Save.” Direct students to then click on the “File” tab on the top left menu bar. Click on “New” to create new slide canvas.



5. Direct students to repeat steps #1 through #4 to create all 12 storybook slides. The process will be the same for each slide with the only variation coming in slide #11. Once picture is placed on canvas #11, instead of having the kids add a dialogue box for storybook narration, students will click on the horn with music notes icon “Sounds” (on left side of the screen) to open a “Sounds” menu on the bottom of the screen. At the bottom of the screen will appear a menu with the pre-installed “Ram’s Horn Sound” icon. When you click on the icon, students will hear the ram’s horn make noise. Drag that icon onto the picture to install the sound on that slide’s canvas. Then continue to save file as described in step #4.
6. Once all 12 storybook slides have been created and saved, click on the “Slides” icon on the bottom right of page to move to the next step.
7. Students will be taken to a screen where they will assemble the slides into a storybook presentation. Click on “Empty Slide #1.” Click on the “folder” icon at the bottom of the empty slide. A dialogue box will pop up at left saying “Load Picture” Scroll down the list to find “Gideon 1” a preview of the slide will appear. Click “Open” to place slide into presentation. Repeat this step over and over until all 12 slides have been added to the presentation.



8. Once all slides are in the presentation, click on the “Transitions” icon at middle left. The icons at the bottom of each slide will change. Click on the bottom left box under the first slide that reads “7 seconds.” A dialogue box will pop up. Check “Read Text Done” option and click “OK.” “Text Done” will appear at the bottom of the slide to indicate that the time transition has been changed.





9. Repeat this process with all 12 slides.
10. Once the time transitions have been changed on all the slides, instruct the kids to press the green “Play” button at left to watch and listen to their finished Gideon Storybook. After kids have viewed their creation, help them save their storybooks and then click “File” and “Exit” to close Kid Pix.

Below is a cheat sheet of the pictures and narration for all 12 slides in the Gideon Storybook. Use it to assist students to get everything in the proper order.



**#1)** In the days of the Judges, years after Joshua and the 12 tribes of Israel had settled the Promised Land, the people did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and God let the Midianites raid the land. All the people were afraid of them.



**#2)** And God chose Gideon from the tribe of Manasseh to save his people. He sent an angel to tell him so. Gideon said, “How do I know that it is you that is calling me?”



**#3)** And the angel told Gideon to take some meat and bread and place it before him. The angel touched the food with his staff and they caught on fire. Then Gideon knew that God had sent a messenger to him.



**#4)** Gideon still wasn't convinced that God wanted him to lead the Lord's army. So, he prayed for God to give him a sign. That the fleece would be wet in the morning and the ground dry. And God did what Gideon asked.



**#5)** Still not sure, Gideon prayed for one more sign, that in the morning the fleece would be dry and the ground wet. God did what Gideon asked. Then Gideon knew that he had been called by God to lead Israel.



**#6)** And so, Gideon gathered 32,000 men to fight for Israel. But God told Gideon that he had too many men. If they should win, they would think that they saved Israel on their own without needing faith in God.



**#7)** So God told Gideon to have the men in his army drink from a stream. Every man who lapped water like a dog would be chosen to fight. Gideon did what God commanded. Only 300 men remained in the Lord's army.



**#8)** Then Gideon and his servant Purah sneaked into the Midianite camp. They overheard two soldiers talking. One said that he had a dream that Gideon and the God of Israel would defeat them in battle.

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**#9)** So Gideon returned to his own camp. He told his army that each man must take a ram's horn trumpet and a torch placed under a jar. The army was to sneak over to the Midianite camp, stand in a circle around it, and at his command, blow the trumpets and shout, "For the Lord and for Gideon."



**#10)** The army did as Gideon directed. In the middle of the night, they made a circle around the enemy camp, blew the trumpets, smashed the jars so the torches could burn brightly, and shouted "For the Lord and for Gideon."



**#11)** Ram's Horn Sound



**#12)** At the sound of the ram's horns, the Lord caused the Midianite army to panic. In fact, they were so scared, they fought each other and fled the camp. Gideon and the army won the battle with God's help. After the victory, the people of Israel asked Gideon to rule over them. Gideon said, "I will not rule over you. The Lord God will rule over you. To this day we remember Gideon's faith and that our God is the one who gives us the victory.

## Crossword Studio Bible:

Have Students Click on Crossword Studio Bible icon to open software program.

Once software program opens, click on Stained Glass Window image with words superimposed "Click Here". This will take you to the Puzzles menu screen.

A list of pre-loaded puzzles will then appear . Have students scroll down the list until they see the document "GIDEON.XWD". Click on that file name and click open.

This will open the actual puzzle pictured below.

Word Boxes and Clue will highlight for the current word that the students are trying to solve.

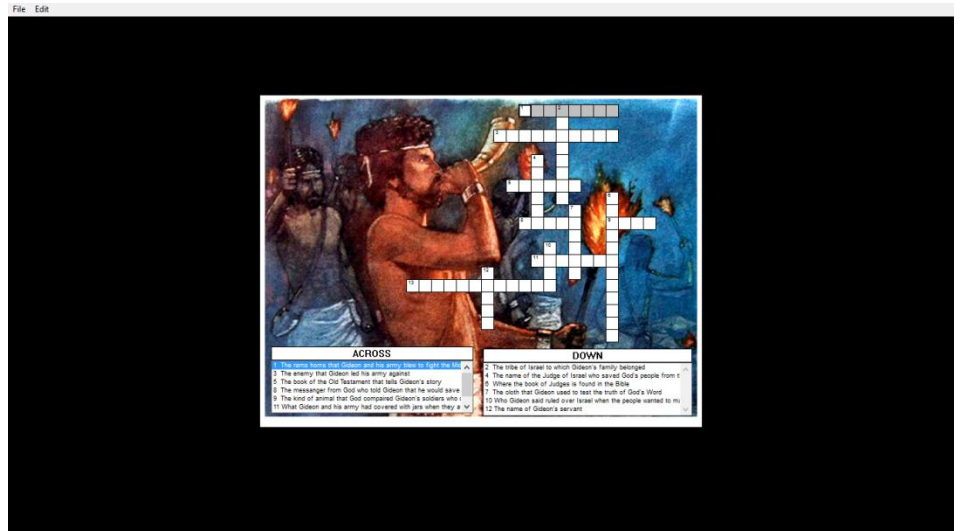
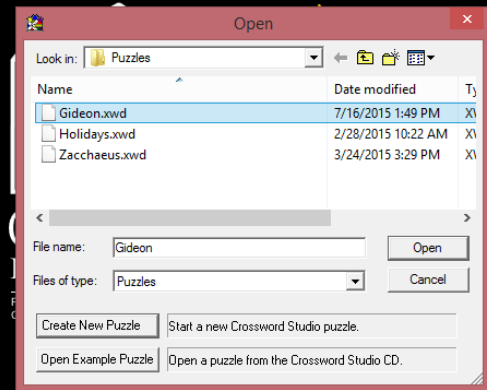
Have students type in the answers in the puzzle boxes as shown below. Once typed in, hit “Enter” key.

An asterisk (\*) will appear next to the puzzle clue if students have answered correctly. (Shown in screenshot)

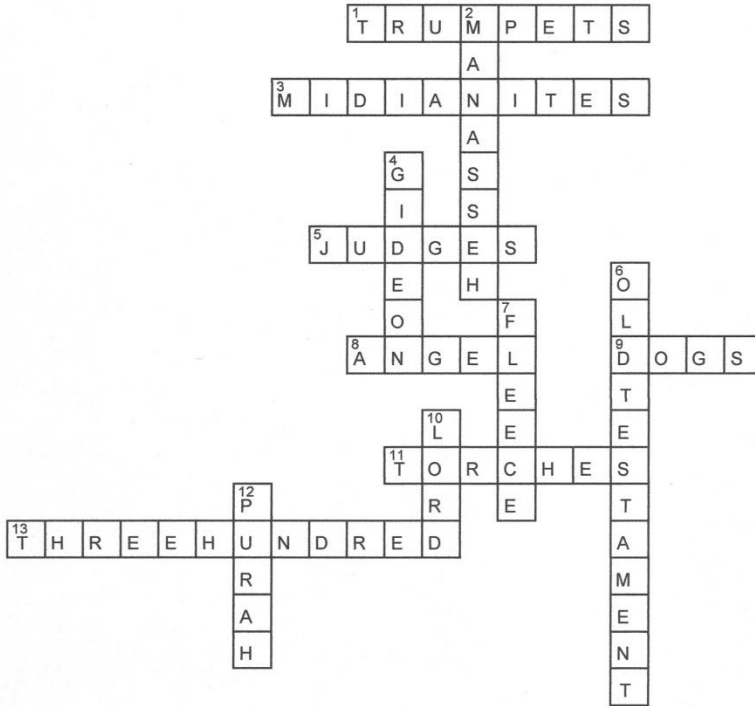
Have students continue typing answers until they have completed the puzzle.

Once students have complete the puzzle, have them click on the “File” tab at top left of screen and click “Exit” to close program.

Puzzle Solution is printed on next page. Make sure you help kids if they struggle with some of the answers.



## Gideon



### ACROSS

- 1 The rams horns that Gideon and his army blew to fight the Midianites
- 3 The enemy that Gideon led his army against
- 5 The book of the Old Testament that tells Gideon's story
- 8 The messenger from God who told Gideon that he would save God's people
- 9 The kind of animal that God compared Gideon's soldiers who drink by lapping water

- 11 What Gideon and his army had covered with jars when they attacked the Midianites
- 13 The number of soldiers God told Gideon to take with him to fight the Midianites

### DOWN

- 2 The tribe of Israel to which Gideon's family belonged
- 4 The name of the Judge of Israel who saved God's people from the Midianites
- 6 Where the book of Judges is found in the Bible
- 7 The cloth that Gideon used to test the truth of God's Word
- 10 Who Gideon said ruled over Israel when the people wanted to make him king.

- 12 The name of Gideon's servant



## Creation Station

**Memory Verse:** “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

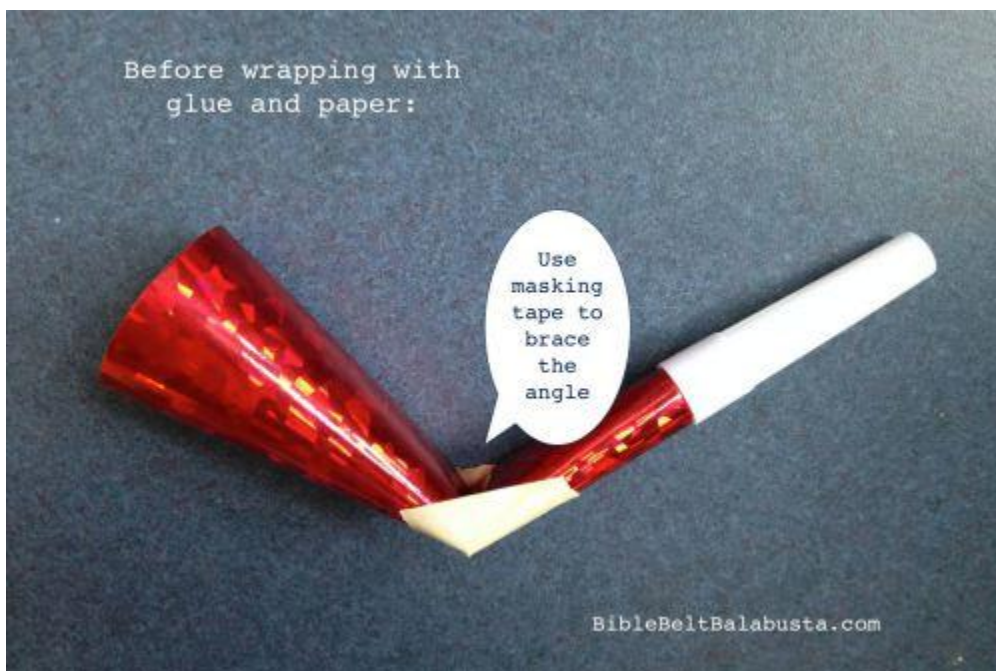
### Supplies:

- Real shofar to look at and try
- Gideon Bible Storybook
- Party Horns (6 for a dollar and Dollar Tree)
- Tissue paper (browns)
- White glue (diluted) or liquid starch
- Paintbrush for glue
- Masking Tape to hold middle fold before wrapping

**Source:** “Dollar Store Shofar Craft” from BibleBeltBalabusta.com, Sept. 13, 2014; “The Sounds of the Shofar” from joyfuljewish.wordpress.com, Sept. 16, 2012.



Cheap, quick and irresistible to *honk*: the Party Horn Shofar. I tweaked this classic to meet a specific goal: to produce a “realistic-looking” shofar that will not offend the sensibilities of a certain group of students who feel themselves too mature for stickers and glitter. I also needed horns easy to “sound” (some brands are hard to blow), so that we’ll be able to practice the real shofar calls without getting unduly crabby.



My Version, suitable for groups of children and one meticulous adult with but half an hour of class time:

#### ADULT PREP:

1. Go to Dollar Tree and try to *only* buy party horns. Resist everything else or Dollar Tree becomes Thirty-Dollar Tree within moments.

2. Test *each horn* if you have children/students who will freak out if the horn is too difficult to blow. The brand I found will honk with just a smidge of air, which is all my kids are willing to give. (I still had several duds and I'm glad I bought extras.)

3. Pinch the horn in two places. This is much easier to show than to describe. One bend is halfway up the bell at a 45 degree angle. I used masking tape to hold it steady. The other is at the large opening: just pinch it shut, crease it, and release. Do not let the bends restrict air flow or make the horn too difficult to honk. (Notice the two folds are in planes opposite to one another. One is latitudinal and one is longitudinal. Let me know if there is a more accurate way to describe this relationship.)

#### KID WORK:

Introduce the project by showing kids an authentic shofar (ram's horn trumpet), and telling them that we will be making our own ram's horns in Creation Station to help experience this month's Bible story about Gideon.

**Ask:** In what ways the kids think ram's horns were used in Bible times? **Ask:** How trumpets are used today?

Tell the kids that ram's horns were important in Bible times, to sound an alert or warning, to announce the arrival of a king, to surprise an enemy, as an instrument of worship, to call people to attention, etc.

Say, there is even a biblical holiday held in the fall called "Feast of Trumpets." [Leviticus 23:23-25]

1. Kids tear strips of tissue paper: 10 to 15 strips. Neatness does not count.

2. Kids paint horn with diluted glue, then wrap and smoosh layers of paper onto the glue. Repeat until original color of horn is obscured. Wrinkles are good: they make the horn look more real. Make sure the horn still has the two creases. Let dry. This part will take forever, so go do something else in the meantime.



## DIG INTO THE WORD

Read the story of Gideon from the Gideon Bible Storybook.

Ask, “Why do you think the Lord had Gideon’s army blow the trumpets as they surrounded the Midianite army in the middle of the night. [To startle them away, make them panic, make them think Gideon’s army was all over them.]

Ask, What would you have thought if you were a member of Gideon’s army and you were told that the battle plan was just to blow rams horns, wave torches in the air and shout “For the Lord and for Gideon”? [Let kids respond with various answers, share one of your own saying that it made no sense. Etc.]

How did this method of battle show Gideon and his army that God was the one who was in charge of the battle? [God caused the enemy to panic. Gideon’s army didn’t have to attack, the Midianites attacked each other.]

What other Bible stories does a ram’s horn/trumpet play an important role?

- Joshua and the battle of Jericho [Joshua 6:15-20]
- Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem [Nehemiah 4:16-21]
- The Second Coming of Christ [Matthew 24:30-31; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17]

How is the trumpet used in each Bible story? Why do you think the ram’s Horn is used to show God’s power?

3. Practice the traditional Shofar sounds with this cute printable diagram below.

# THE SOUNDS OF THE SHOFAR

TEKIAH - ONE LONG BLAST



SHEVARIM - 3 SHORT CALLS



TERUAH - 9 OR MORE SHORT FAST NOTES



TEKIAH GEDOLAH—"THE GREAT TEKIAH"  
- ONE REALLY BIG, LONG BLAST



## Discovery Destination

**Memory Verse:** “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

### Summary of Lesson Activities:

Uses three separate games to tell the story.

For scripture and memory verses see above post.

### Workshop-specific Goals

- Learn that they can rely on God’s power and strength when facing challenges
  - Know that God is with them even when they feel outnumbered
  - Realize that only God can give them victory over sin
- 

### Leader Preparation:

- Review Bible Background notes.
- Gather the materials.

### Supplies List:

- Bibles
- Children’s Bible Storybook with story of Gideon in it
- TV & DVD Player
- Copy of the video “Mulan” (from Walt Disney)
- Volleyball court (in gymnasium or outline with tape)
- Soft balls (nerf balls, beach balls, balloons—do NOT use real volleyballs)
- Memory verse cube (see lesson for how to make)
- Journaling pages

### Advance Preparation:

- Refer to schedule and decide how you will make adjustments for the different ages.
- Familiarize yourself with the entire video and have it cued to the appropriate place.

### Presentation

### **Opening-Welcome and Lesson Introduction:**

Introduce yourself to the students.

Open with a prayer .

Introduction & Bible Story:

This month, we are learning about Gideon. What do you remember about Gideon? (Omit this question if it is the first week of the rotation)

### **Dig-Main Content and Reflection:**

*Mulan* Video Clip:

Even though we are in the Games Station, we are going to start out by watching part of a video. This video isn't about Gideon, but the story has some similarities. *Mulan* is the story of a young Chinese girl, who pretends to be a boy named Ping. She joins the Imperial army to fight against the invading Hun army. The unit she joins is a small group of boys and men just learning to be soldiers, led by a young man named Shang. They go out to battle the Huns.

The clip you are showing starts at about 52 minutes into the movie. They have just left the destroyed village, where *Mulan* lays the doll at the base of the sword. Start the video right after this, as Shang and his troops march to the pass. Stop the video during the avalanche scene, after the soldiers hide behind the rock.

How do you think Ping and the other soldiers felt when they realized that were really outnumbered by the Huns?

Our Bible story, from the book of Judges, is also about 2 armies—the Israelites and the Midianites. Let's see how these 2 stories compare.

### **Bible Story:**

Tell the story using the Bible storybook.

Have the children find Judges 6 in the Bibles. Have the children read selected verses from the story (you may want to adjust this for younger children):

- Gideon is in hiding, threshing his wheat, when an angel appears. Read Judges 6: 12-16
- Gideon starts to put an army together to defeat the Midianites, but God has His own plans. Read Judges 7: 2-7

- The Midianite army was so large that even their camels couldn't be counted. Gideon had only 300 soldiers, but God was able to win the battle for them. Read Judges 7: 16-22
- After the victory, the people of Israel asked Gideon to be their king. Read Judges 8: 22-23 for his answer

*Discussion:*

How are the stories of Ping/Mulan and Gideon alike? (Outnumbered) How are they different? (different sources of victory)

**Activities:**

*“Volleyball”:*

Set up a volleyball court (with or without a net). Divide the class into two teams: one team with one person and everyone else on the other team. Ask the class if there is any way that the solo person can win this game? Give one ball to the solo person and give the rest of the balls to the other team. They may all start serving at once. The first team to score 5 points wins. The team with the majority of players should win quickly.

Now change the setup of the game. The team with most of the players must now sit on the floor in a circle and all hold hands. They cannot unclasp their hands and they must remain sitting. Now give one ball to the team with the most players, and the rest of the balls to the solo player. Again, the teams may serve as many balls as quickly as they want. The first team to score 5 points win. The solo player should win this round.

How are these 2 teams like the Midianite army and Gideon's army? What unfair advantage did the Midianite army have? (superior numbers) What “unfair” advantage did Gideon's army have? (God was on their side) Gideon's army started with 32,000 men and ended up with 300. Why didn't God want all 32,000 men to fight? (Israel would believe that their fighting abilities won the battle, not God's power)

*Rock, Paper, Scissors*

We'll be playing “Rock, Paper, Scissors” using symbols of weapons used in Bible times to win battles—

- Spear—make a fist with index finger pointing out to form the spear
- Sword—make a fist with index and middle finger pointing out & curving to form sword
- Hand-to Hand combat—make a fist with no fingers pointing out
- Sword beats hands; hands beat spears; spears beat swords.

Pair the children off in twos and have them play several rounds. The teacher then enters the game with a new symbol (totally open palm representing power of God). Don't explain this new symbol when you first enter the game—just play the game, give the power of God symbol on

the 3rd hit and say “I won”. When the children question you, tell them that the new symbol is prayer/power of God and that is the weapon you have chosen. Continue to play rounds, choosing prayer/power of God and therefore winning every time, no matter what other symbol is given. Hopefully, the students will follow suit and choose prayer/power of God every time as they are playing.

What did Gideon’s army take into battle with them? (trumpet, torch, jars to cover the torches) Those aren’t very deadly weapons—how were the Midianites conquered? (Judges 7:22 says that the Lord caused the soldiers to turn on each other with their swords—they were so confused that they killed each other). What (or who) was Gideon’s most important weapon? (power of God)

### *Memory Verse Game*

Make a “Memory Verse Cube” from a sturdy square cardboard box. Each of the 6 sides should be a different color and with a different question on it: Where is this verse found in the Bible?; Act out the verse; Put this verse in your own words; Say the verse (all or part); How can you use this verse in your life?; What does this verse tell you about the Lord?

Each child should roll the memory verse cube and follow the instructions.

### **Closing:**

You may not be going into a physical battle like Gideon, but did you realize that you are on a battlefield every day? We are all in a spiritual battle and our enemies are sin and temptations. We might be tempted by things we see on TV or read in books or we might even be tempted by friends who aren’t worried about what is right and wrong. What are some sins or temptations that are surrounding you? It isn’t possible to fight these all off, all of the time. Who is the one person that can help you in this fight? (God)

Journal Topic (last 5 minutes of class):

Grade 1-2: God can do anything! Write or draw a picture of one great thing that God has done for you.

Grade 3-6: Write a prayer asking God to help you with one sin or temptation in your life.

**End with a prayer.**

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## **Resources/Bibliography**

ebibleteacher.com

Movie Clips for Kids (Group Publishing)

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A Lesson Set written by members of: Chicago Western Suburbs Rotation Roundtable

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