

Name: _____

Date:



The Story of Gideon

The children of Israel had settled in the land of Canaan. They began to worship idols that the people of Canaan served. Because of their disobedience, God allowed the **Midianites** to treat them badly. God sent an **angel** to a man named Gideon. The angel told Gideon that God had chosen him to deliver the Israelites. Gideon was not sure this was so, and he asked God for signs of miracles to prove that God was really with him.

Gideon started out with an army of 32,000 men. God said to tell all who were afraid to go home. **22,000** left! The next test was to have these men get a drink of water. Some of them got down on their knees and put their faces in the water. These were rejected. Some took water in their hands and lapped it out of their hands as a dog laps water. These men were chosen. There were **300** of them. What a small army! God did not want them to think they had won the battle all by themselves.

Gideon and his small army surrounded the Midianite army which was down in a valley. Each man had a trumpet in his right hand and a pitcher with a lighted torch in his left hand. When Gideon gave the signal, each man blew on the trumpet, broke the pitcher to let the torch shine, and shouted, The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

The Midianites thought they were surrounded by a huge army and became so confused that they killed one another. Gideon, with God's help, had won the battle with 300 men.

Gideon doubted his ability to defeat the Midianites: he told the Lord he was the weakest in his father's house. In spite of these doubts, God used Gideon to accomplish special tasks.

Read the story to answer the following questions.

1. The people who were mistreating the Israelites during the time of Gideon were called the _____. (1)

a. Canaanites b. Midianites

2. Who told Gideon that God had chosen him? (1)

3. How many of Gideon's soldiers left because they were afraid? (1)

4. Use the numbers **1-4** to put the events in the correct order. (4)

_____ God chose Gideon to deliver the Israelites.

_____ Gideon with God's help won the battle.

_____ The Israelites worship idols like the people of Canaan.

_____ There was a small army of 300 men.

5. Name three things Gideon's army held in their hands. (3)

_____, _____, and _____
