

The background of the page is a vibrant sunset over a beach. The sky is filled with streaks of orange, red, and yellow, transitioning into a deep blue at the top. The ocean waves are visible in the distance, and the sand of the beach is in the foreground. A large, rounded rectangular text box is centered on the page, containing the title and lesson information. The text box has a light beige background with a subtle grid pattern and a thin green border. The title "Beautiful BIBLE TREASURES For Children" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the title, "Lesson 38" is also in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The lesson levels are listed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font, with the titles of the activities in italics.

Beautiful BIBLE TREASURES For Children

Lesson 38

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

Gideon and the Angel

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

Gideon and the Angel

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:

Gideon and the Angel

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:

Gideon and the Angel

**Level E— Bible Bits: Flashback—Joel's Prophecy/
Topic Treasures—Memorizing God's Word**

Gideon and the Angel

The people that God had chosen to follow Him were no longer obeying Him. Then trouble happened, and as a result there wasn't enough food, because selfish people from another area came and took it.

The people needed help, and they needed to start obeying God again. God chose Gideon to help the Israelites.

An angel came and told Gideon that God needed him for an important job.

Then the angel showed Gideon something amazing. With a touch of his staff, he made fire come out of a rock!

Gideon believed that God had sent the angel, and prayed for God to help him. He wanted to obey whatever God said to do.



Gideon and the Angel

Things were pretty tough for the Israelites, as many of them had stopped following God's instructions and rules for them. Things in their country weren't going well, and troublesome people were making things hard for them.

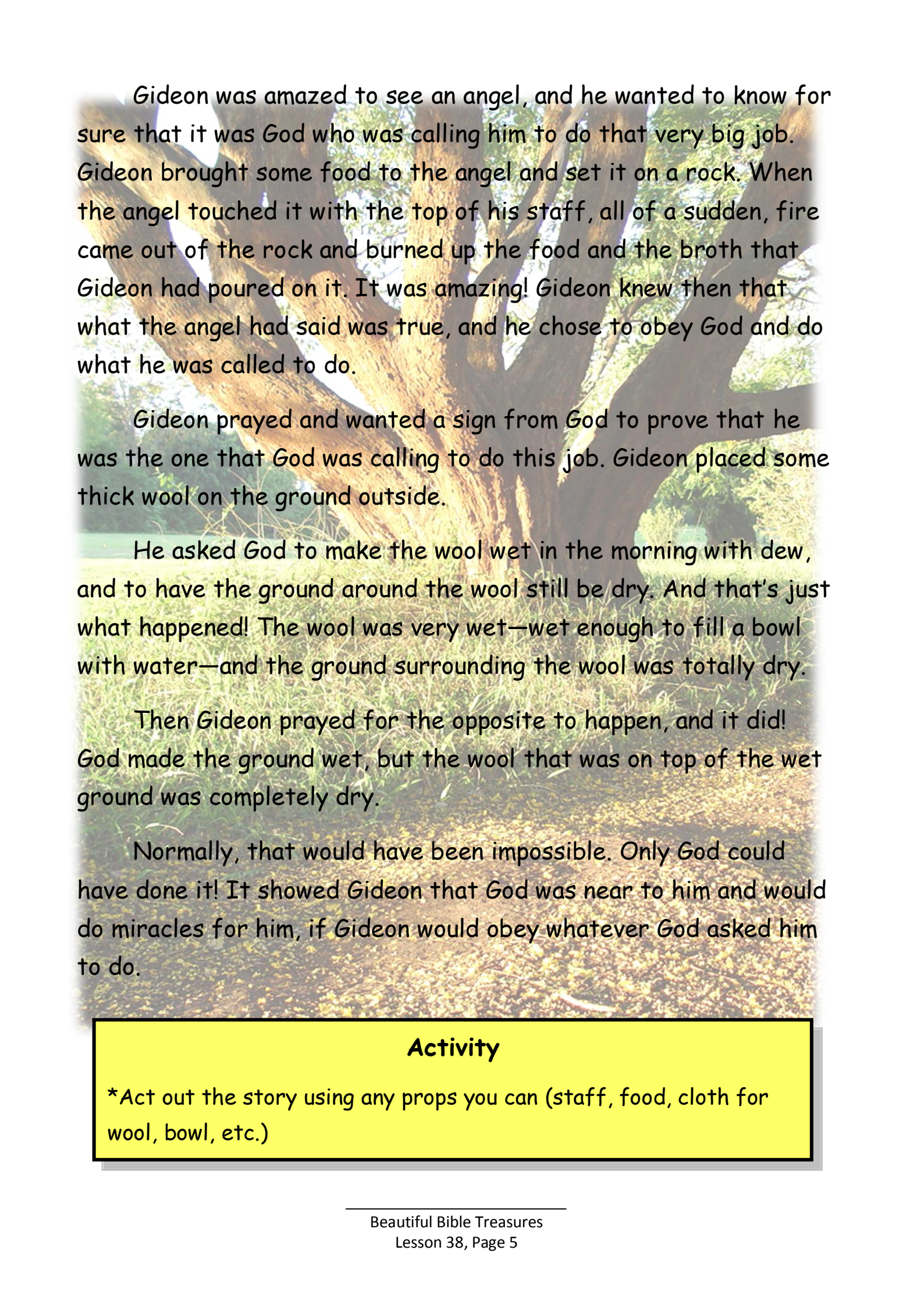
People had to hide their food, so that the unkind folks wouldn't come and take it. God couldn't do great and mighty miracles for them and make things all nice, until they chose to obey Him and do what He asked them to do.

Gideon was a man that loved God and respected Him. He wished people would start following and obeying God again, and he wished things would get better in their country, but it seemed impossible.

One day as he was threshing wheat in a secluded place so that the Midianites, as they were called, wouldn't come and take his family's food, something very surprising happened to him.

An angel of God appeared to Gideon and told him that he was a strong and good man, and that God wanted to use him to be the one to make their country nice and safe again.





Gideon was amazed to see an angel, and he wanted to know for sure that it was God who was calling him to do that very big job. Gideon brought some food to the angel and set it on a rock. When the angel touched it with the top of his staff, all of a sudden, fire came out of the rock and burned up the food and the broth that Gideon had poured on it. It was amazing! Gideon knew then that what the angel had said was true, and he chose to obey God and do what he was called to do.

Gideon prayed and wanted a sign from God to prove that he was the one that God was calling to do this job. Gideon placed some thick wool on the ground outside.

He asked God to make the wool wet in the morning with dew, and to have the ground around the wool still be dry. And that's just what happened! The wool was very wet—wet enough to fill a bowl with water—and the ground surrounding the wool was totally dry.

Then Gideon prayed for the opposite to happen, and it did! God made the ground wet, but the wool that was on top of the wet ground was completely dry.

Normally, that would have been impossible. Only God could have done it! It showed Gideon that God was near to him and would do miracles for him, if Gideon would obey whatever God asked him to do.

Activity

*Act out the story using any props you can (staff, food, cloth for wool, bowl, etc.)

Gideon and the Angel



Have you ever had to miss an activity or couldn't receive some promised reward, due to misbehaviour or failure to heed some important instructions? Perhaps you didn't follow some safety guidelines or you forgot to bring the proper gear, and so you weren't permitted to enter into a certain area or enjoy some activity. -Or maybe something else has happened that made you experience the feeling of missing out on something you wanted to do, because of not following instructions and rules.

That is what began happening to the Israelites who had been living in their new country. Remember all those instructions and rules that God had given them and that Moses had written down for them to follow? Well, the people started to disobey, and instead of only doing things God's way and worshipping Him above all, they started to do things their own way and were doing the things that the ungodly people in the surrounding countries were doing.

Their job was to be an example of God's way and to be an influence for the better. But rather than persevering in that job, they started to do whatever strange or ugly ideas others were getting.

People didn't have access to books and reading material as easily as you do now, and many people didn't even know how to read anyway. When someone is working towards getting a driving license they have to read and study, to learn and remember the rules of safe driving in their country. Just one quick reading of a driving manual isn't enough to help them know it well and remember it for years to come.

When God gave the laws and rules to Moses for the people to follow, He also gave them some tips on how to remember what He said. In order to remember His words, they needed to not just hear the Lord's words read to them once in a while; they would need to memorize portions, and teach them to their children. They would need to commit God's Word to memory.

King David, who lived much later on, said he hid God's Word in his heart. He kept it inside of him and made it a part of his thoughts, memorized it and let it be what guided him. He said that was the way to not sin, or do things contrary to what God had said. (Psalm 119:11) If you will do the same, it will make obeying and following God's Words and instructions on how to live a happy life so much easier.

You can do it every day, if you like! Choose a new verse from the Bible that you'd like to remember for a long time. Read it through, make sure you understand each word, and ask someone about the meanings of the words you don't understand. Then take one phrase at a time, and quote it again and again until you know that little portion of the verse.

Move on to the next portion of the verse, repeating and quoting—or singing it, or adding actions if you like—to help you learn it by heart. In just a few minutes you'll probably be able to quote it without looking at the page. Review it from time to time, to make sure you keep it fresh in your memory.



Now, that is one good way to "hide the word in your heart!" You'll start to experience something wonderful, once you have stored away many verses in your heart and mind. God's Spirit can remind you much more easily about a Bible verse that you are very familiar with and have committed to memory.

Perhaps you'll find yourself in a difficult moment today, and you'll be lacking faith and courage to face the situation; but then as you stop to pray, all of a sudden a Bible verse you have learned comes to mind. It might feel like your heart just got stocked up with a full tank of spiritual petrol. With the verse of God's promise empowering you, you'll feel like you can handle the problem and know what would be the right thing to do.

So those are some tips for you living in the world today; the way to keep following God's ways; and some tips on how to remember God's words and instructions.

The Israelites didn't always stay on track, and at the time of this story the people weren't going God's way. Some people weren't obeying because they forgot His instructions and hadn't committed them to memory. Others never heard it because those who knew God's laws hadn't been diligent to teach them. And some people chose to go their own way, or other ungodly people's ways, stubbornly, sinfully and wilfully.

It was very sad for God to see. It hurt Him, and it was hurting the whole country too. Not only were they not doing as God wanted, but they weren't helping the countries around them to learn of God and His right ways either.

So as night follows day, so do bad and sad times follow those who disobey God. If you are obeying Him as best as you can, things still won't be perfectly easy. That isn't the way it is on Earth, but at least you have Me, Jesus, there to help pull you out of the difficulties and to give you the courage to face them. And I'll do the miracles you need when you pray.

However, if you are doing things contrary to My will and not obeying what I've asked you to do, then things will get tough, and just keep getting worse—until you decide to change, and go God's way.

There was a large team of ungodly people called the Midianites. They were the ones that God allowed to cause the disobedient Israelites

trouble, for seven years. These unkind people took food and whatever else they wanted, away from the Israelites, whenever they wanted or needed something. It made for a very difficult and troublesome time. People had to hide their food, and thresh their wheat in secret.

One man, whose name was Gideon, was doing just that when he had an unforgettable, life-changing encounter. He was hiding out by his father's winepress near a big oak tree, trying to thresh the wheat without any of the Midianites noticing him, so that his family would have food to eat.

It wasn't easy. He wasn't a big or important man and he felt like there wasn't anything he could do to change the difficult situation. But he loved God, and that's why he was chosen for a great job.

An angel sent from God suddenly appeared and told Gideon that God was with him, and called him a "mighty man of valour". Gideon didn't feel like he was, but it was nice that God thought of him as a big, brave, and strong winner! He needed encouragement to do what God was going to ask of him.

Have you ever found that true in your life, that when someone says you are good at something or encourages you in something, it makes you feel more confident that you can do it?

God knew that, with His help, Gideon would be a powerful and strong leader, helping to chase out those bothersome folks. God also knew that Gideon felt pretty low, and unable to do much good at all. He felt like everyone else in his family was better, in some way, than he was.

God wasn't interested in strong men, or well-thought of guys, or good-looking people, or those considered the most important around, or those that had lots of riches. He needed someone who loved Him and would do whatever crazy thing God told him to do—even if no one else was doing it, or it had never been done before. He needed a wholehearted, obedient guy to carry out some pretty new ideas.

God saw the heart of Gideon. He knew that just a bit of encouragement would be like the spark to light his flame of faith, and Gideon would then get going and do whatever God said. He just needed some encouragement and faith, to know that God was really with him and was indeed the one calling him to do the job. It seemed quite unbelievable to Gideon that he would be chosen, rather than the people who seemed to be better and stronger than he was. But God saw his heart, and knew that Gideon was just perfect for the job.

Gideon liked to be totally sure of God's will, and wasn't going to run off and do anything unless he was absolutely convinced it was God's will for him to do it. If God was calling him to do a big and important job—to save Israel from these troublesome people—well, he was willing and was certainly glad for it to happen, but he wanted to be convinced that it really was God calling him.

The first thing he wanted to do was to make sure that this really was an angel sent from God. He begged the angelic man to not leave, but to wait for him to bring some food.



The angel agreed, and waited. Now it wasn't just a quick "grab something out of the fridge" dash, while the angel waited a moment. It took some time, as he had to build a fire and cook it first. However, when Gideon returned with the food, the angel had kept his promise and was still there.

The angel instructed Gideon to put the meat and bread on a rock, and to pour the broth all over it, making it very wet. Does water burn?

Well, when this angel then touched the food with the tip of his staff, fire came bursting out of the rock below it and burned everything up—the food and the watery broth!

This looked pretty impressive, and was a clear sign to Gideon that indeed this was an angel sent from God. It humbled him and made him desperate to be right with God, and to be sure to obey Him too.

So Gideon chose in his heart to take on the job that God was calling him to do; but he still wanted to just double and triple check that it was indeed God's will for him to be the one to do it.

When talking with God later on, Gideon humbly asked if he could have another supernatural sign shown to him, to give him an extra boost of faith. So Gideon took a fleece of wool and placed it on the ground, and asked God to do something that was normally impossible.

He said to God, "If in the morning the fleece is wet from the dew but the ground all around the fleece is dry, then I'll know that I am meant to be the one to save Israel, as You have said."

God honoured his prayer, and the next morning the fleece was so wet that Gideon squeezed a whole bowl full of water out of it! -And the ground? Yes! It was totally dry. How did God stop the normal falling of dew on that area of land and make a whole lot of water soak into the wool? God knows tricks!

Gideon was getting excited! He was just about ready to blast off and get going on his new mission, but he thought to triple check. He knew the job wouldn't be easy, and people could make things pretty tough for him, if it was just little him out there trying to chase away multitudes of people. But he knew that if God was the one calling him, then he had nothing to worry about.

"Please don't be upset with me," Gideon prayed, "but can I ask you, God, for one more sign, so I can be totally sure that it's me that You want to use to do this job?" Then, Gideon asked God to do the request from the last time, in reverse. He asked for the sign of God confirming His will to be that the wool would be totally dry, and the surrounding ground all wet.

Have you ever left your laundry on the line outside over night, in a place where plenty of dew falls? Even if the clothes are dry before the sun sets, by morning, they are all quite wet again. So for the ground to be wet and show the evidence that dew had fallen all around, but the wool left outside on the ground to be dry, would again take a miracle.

God wanted to do all He could to give Gideon the faith to take the plunge and get on with the very needed job of getting people to start going His way again, and to start changing the situation for the better. God did, once again, just as Gideon had prayed, and the ground was wet, but the wool on it was totally dry.

Gideon had all the faith he needed, and was committed to doing everything that God asked of him, no matter what it was, to bring relief to the land of Israel.

Activity

* See if you can tell what items were not talked about in the story of Gideon and the angel! (You can give "yes" and "no" answers, or thumbs up or down, etc., as the list is read one word at a time.)

Rock, palm tree, wheat, well, staff, cloak, raisins, winepress, leather, broth, oil, mill, fire, oak tree, vine, tent.

Let's Talk About It

*Do you know some of the ways to confirm God's will and to find out what He wants you to do? Talk about what you can do to find out! (For example: Reading His Word, praying and hearing from Him, asking good advice from others who follow Him, sometimes even "laying a fleece" or asking for a sign, etc.)

*What types of situations are hard for you, or that make you feel sad, afraid, upset, irritable, lazy, or lonely? Choose a verse to memorize, and remind yourself of it when you face that difficulty next time.

Gideon and the Angel



Connect and Communicate

* Discuss why light is so important, and the benefits of having light to be able to see. Light a candle, and have quiet silent prayer. Think about the Lord and how His Word lights our way.

Study Fun

Mark: The promises and encouragement of God given to Gideon by the angel, and when he prayed later on.

Look up: The meanings of valour, fleece, wring, impoverished.

List: The names of people, nationalities, and places mentioned in these verses, as you read.

Judges

6:1 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.

6:6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the Lord.

6:7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord because of the Midianites,

6:11 And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

6:12 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

6:14 And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

6:15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

6:16 And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee.

6:17 And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

6:18 Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again.

6:19 And Gideon went in, and made ready... and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it.

6:20 And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

6:21 Then the angel of the Lord put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire



out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the Lord departed out of his sight.

6:22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the Lord, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord God! for because I have seen an angel of the Lord face to face.

6:36 And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said,

6:37 Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.

6:38 And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

6:39 And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.

6:40 And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

* * *

Deuteronomy

6:5 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:



6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

6:8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

6:9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

6:13 Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

6:14 Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;

6:17 Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee.

6:18 And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers.

6:24 And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.

6:25 And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us.

Activity

*Play an opposites quiz game, where the questions are phrased in such a way that the players must think of what the story said, and answer correctly what the opposite of it is. Pose questions like: "Gideon's family was not..." (rich), or "The food on the rock was not..." (dry), etc.



Fountain of Faith

Psalms 4:8

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.

Psalms 34:18

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.



Flashback—Joel's Prophecy

Prayer

1 Kings 9:3 And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me.

*Take turns praying for someone you all know—a friend or family member—but without saying their name. At the end of each prayer have people guess who was being prayed for.

Activity

*Have each one come to this Bible study dressed up in some way to resemble people from different countries and cultures.

(There is a prophecy in the Old Testament that talks of the Holy Spirit, the gift of prophecy, and salvation coming to those who believe. When the disciples received God's Spirit, and were prophesying and speaking in new languages to people of many different lands, they remembered it as being part of the fulfilment of what the prophet Joel had said.)

Old Testament

Joel

2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

2:32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

New Testament

Acts

2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

2:6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

2:7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

2:8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

2:9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

2:10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

2:11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

2:12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

2:13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

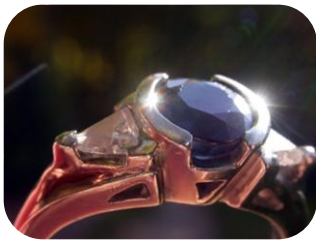
2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.



Topic Treasures

—Memorizing
God's Word

Study Fun

Mark: All the words that refer to God's Word.

Look up: Psalm 119 and see what its main topic is.

List: The things that these verses tell us to do with God's Word.
(For example: meditate, keep, etc.)

Proverbs 4:4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Proverbs 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart.

Romans 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Proverbs 6:20-21 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

Proverbs 6:22-23 When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.





Daily Diary

*Write: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart" at the top of the page. Choose several verses, or a portion of a chapter, that you want to commit to memory this month, and write the references in your diary under that heading. Mark each reference as you learn it. See if you can reach your goal!