

Beautiful
BIBLE TREASURES
For Children
Lesson 39

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

A Pitcher, a Torch, and a Trumpet

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

A Pitcher, a Torch, and a Trumpet

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:

A Pitcher, a Torch, and a Trumpet

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:

A Pitcher, a Torch, and a Trumpet

**Level E—Bible Bits: Who's That?—King Agrippa /
Topic Treasures—God Can Do It**

A Pitcher, a Torch, and a Trumpet

God surprised Gideon!

He said that even though it was a very big job to make the land of Israel safe again, that Gideon only needed a small team of helpers to do the job of making some unkind and selfish people leave their country.

Gideon and his team did as God said, and each one carried a clay pitcher, a torch, and a trumpet. At just the right time each one of them blew their trumpets loudly, broke the pitchers, and yelled out, holding up their torches.

This shocked the sleeping, troublesome folks so much, that they started running away! God made them go away. Hurray!

God promised that things would be nice again in the land of Israel, if they continued to obey and follow Him.



A Pitcher, a Torch and a Trumpet

Gideon had prayed and proven God's words of instructions to him to be true. He was ready to go and do whatever job God had for him. There were many people interested in helping him.

A whole lot of people came to be on Gideon's team—many thousands! However, God wanted to surprise everyone with what He could do, with just a small band of men. He wanted to show His special miracle-working power.

Gideon had faith and acted in obedience when God told him that his team of helpers were too many, and to send many of them home.

God said that if there was anyone who was lacking courage or confidence in His help and strength, that they should be the first to leave-- so many returned to their homes.

Then God told Gideon to observe the men drinking at the river, and told him who to choose and who to send back home.

Finally, only 300 men were left on Gideon's team.



However, a few faith-filled and obedient people who are following God are enough for Him to do a great job.

A clay pitcher, a torch, and a trumpet, were what each of the 300 men on Gideon's team were told to get. How would those interesting items do the job of chasing away multitudes of people? Well, God's plan worked! He did the part that they couldn't do.

At night, while all the Midianites were asleep in their tents, Gideon and his men crept quietly into the camp. Then, at just the right time, in the middle of the quiet night, they made BIG, sudden, loud noises!

The sound of the clay pots smashing, the blowing of the trumpets, and each one yelling out so loudly was enough to shock those trouble makers!

They ran out of their tents and made a dash for it. They were so startled, surprised and shocked about what was going on, that they ran away as fast as they could! God's interesting and new idea worked.

Activity

*Make a fun torch, with a thick stick and a flashlight secured to the end of it. Add some red, yellow and orange bits of paper to the flashlight, so they will light up a bit when it's turned on.

A Pitcher, a Torch and a Trumpet



To realise how challenging the situation was, and just what Gideon and his team were facing, take a look at this verse from the Bible describing how many people were causing the Israelites trouble:

"The Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude." (Judges 7:12)

Knowing this will help you to understand why Gideon chose to gather such a large team of 32,000 men when he first started out. Even that didn't seem like many, compared to the large number of Midianites and the many others with them.

However, if there was a very big team of Israelites helping, God knew it would be easy for them to give themselves the credit for doing the job. They might rely on their own strengths and abilities, rather than depending fully on God. God's plan was for them to know for certain that it was Him who was helping them.

If they depended only on their own abilities, the miracle may never have happened. God needed a team that would give Him a chance to do the impossible through them. Gideon's team showed through their obedience to Him, that they had the faith that He could do anything. This is what would make the miraculous become a reality.

God can do things with many or with few. In this case, He wanted to use just a few, to show His power. He wanted to encourage the Israelites that He was still their God of miracles, and was still there with them. He wanted them to turn to Him, to believe on Him, and to love and follow Him.

So who would Gideon send home? How would he make the team smaller? God gave the first instruction. Whoever didn't have the courage needed, and wasn't filled with faith that God could do the miracle, would no longer be a part of this team. When Gideon told this to his large team, 22,000 men left and returned home. That was a lot! Now, their team was less than one-third the original size it had been!

Gideon might have felt that it was sufficient, and definitely a small enough team! But no! God wanted the team to be much smaller than that, so His next instruction was given. Gideon did just as God said.

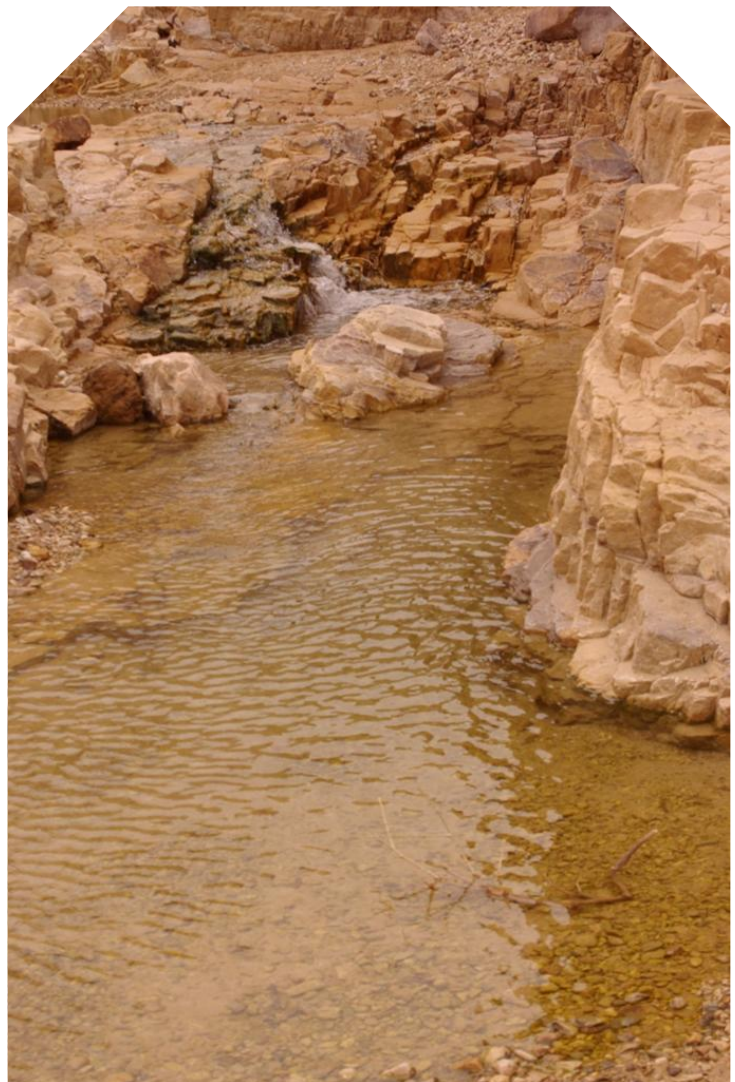
The men were taken to the water to drink. (Remember, they didn't have running water at home, they drank from the stream.) They didn't have cups or water jugs to drink from on that day, just their hands and mouths.

Have you ever tried to drink like that? You can cup your hand and drink a bit at a time like that, or you could just put your mouth right into the pool of water and drink it directly. These were the two ways the people were drinking from the river that day.

When your head is up and your hands are bringing the water to your mouth, you are much more aware of what is going on around you, and you can see more than if you drink with your face very near or in the water.

God said that whoever used their hand to scoop up the water and drink it that way, was to be called out and set aside in one area.

Everyone who bowed down to drink, with their mouth right in the water, was to be sent home. Those watchful and more careful guys were chosen to be on the team.



However, most people didn't drink that way! There were only 300 men that used their hands to drink. So that meant that all the rest of the remaining 10,000 men were no longer with them. Did God realise that this would happen? That there wouldn't even be 1,000 men left, not even half of 1,000 left—just 300? Yes, God was completely in control and aware of it. This was just the amount He was happy with.

Why didn't God just tell Gideon at the very beginning to only have 300 men on his team? Well, He did it this way for many reasons. As the team got smaller and smaller, Gideon's faith got bigger and bigger! It helped him gain the faith, as he kept following God's Words and instructions to him.

Sometimes, the things God needs His people on Earth to do for Him sound quite challenging, and at first it seems like it wouldn't work. --And it wouldn't, if God wasn't the one doing it.

It was a stretch of Gideon's faith already, to say yes and to do what God had asked him to do. If he had been told right at the start that not only was he meant to chase away countless people from the land of Israel but also to do it with a team of only 300, that might have been a bit too much for him to understand, and he might not have had the courage to do it.

So God led him one step at a time-- first with many people, then with fewer, until at last it was the right amount. Gideon had the faith that it was good and right, and that God would do miracles for them and with them.

Also, starting off with a much bigger team gave many people a chance to be part of the team, at least for a while. They had the opportunity to choose to have faith and to be good members of the team. But God didn't just want 300 men; He wanted 300 obedient and faith-filled people.

When at last the team was ready, the small and courageous team, God gave them their next instruction.

The Midianites were peacefully sleeping, after many of them had filled their bellies with food taken from the Israelites, and were snug in their tents. All of a sudden, a tremendous, loud sound woke them! It sounded like a zillion people yelling, and like just about the whole world was there, waking them up.

These 300 men did their part. They broke the clay pitchers that God told them to bring, blasted out their trumpets as loudly as they could, and

yelled at the top of their lungs. Then God made those sounds, in the stillness of the night, to be amplified in the Midianite's ears. They all awoke with a start, and got jogging!

"Let's get out of here!" they yelled, and made a rushed and scared dash for it. If they had only known that it was such a small team that had made all that noise, they would have just laughed and gone back to sleep. It was crazy to think that such a huge multitude could be scared off by just a few hundred guys!

God made it so very startling for the Midianites, and put it in their hearts to be really afraid and to want to get out of there in a hurry. If you do what God tells you, then He'll do what you can't do and fill in all the rest.



Let's Talk About It

*Have you ever had to learn to play an instrument, or game, or learn some skill that seemed a bit too hard at the time? Did you try to do it one step at a time, and then find it got easier with time? You can learn things that seem hard, if you pray and take it bit by bit!

*If you were on Gideon's team at the very beginning, do you think you would have wanted to be sent home or would you have had the courage and wished to be on the final, smaller team?

Activity

* God's Word says, "Is there anything too hard for God?" Is there anything that you might have thought would be a bit too impossible for God to do? Think of something that you need done, and need a miracle for. Discuss some things that you or your family are facing that seem pretty difficult and like there's little chance for things to change and get better. Make a list. Then pray and ask the Lord to help you, and to tell you what steps He wants you to take to begin to bring about the miracle. Write down what He shows you to do, or anything He wants to tell you to encourage your faith as you wait for Him to help make things better.

A Pitcher, a Torch, and a Trumpet



Connect and Communicate

* Everyone get quiet and think about a problem, or something that is bothering you personally, and talk to the Lord in your heart. Then all lift your hands in praise, thanking Him for the victory He's sure to bring.

Study Fun

Draw: What pitchers and torches looked like years ago, by checking online or in books.

✓ Checkmark: All the words to do with numbers and amounts that are in these verses.

Write: The saying, "Little is much, if God is in it!"

Judges

7:2 And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

7:3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying,

Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

7:4 And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

7:5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

7:6 And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

7:7 And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

7:8 So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

7:12 And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

7:16 And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

7:17 And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.



7:18 When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.

7:19 So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.

7:20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.

7:21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp; and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.



8:23 And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the Lord shall rule over you.

8:28 Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

Activity

*Collect some items that represent the different parts of the story, (for example: a flashlight, a piece of cloth for a tent, a bag of sand to represent the multitude of Midianites, a jar of 300 beans, etc.) and put them in a bag. Have each one reach in and grab the first item they touch. After everyone has an item, retell the story. Whoever is holding the item that represents the next part of the story can be the next one to talk. Each one in turn tells their part of the story until it is finished.



Fountain of Faith

2 Samuel 7:28

And now, O Lord God,
thou art that God, and
thy words be true, and
thou hast promised this
goodness unto thy
servant:

2 Samuel 22:7

In my distress I called
upon the Lord, and cried
to my God: and he did
hear my voice out of his
temple, and my cry did
enter into his ears.



Who's That? – King Agrippa

Praise

2 Samuel 22:4 I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved.

* Take turns humming a tune that reminds you of something you are thankful for. Those listening to the tune can try to remember what song it is. Then guess aloud what the person who is humming might be thinking and what they are thankful

King Agrippa, also known as Herod Agrippa, or Herod II, was the last of the Herodians. He was a ruler over a small area, and since he was favourable to the Roman rulers, he was given the authority to appoint the Temple High Priest in Jerusalem. He was also well versed in the scriptures. It was before him, and other important officials, that Paul made his defence against the prosecution by the religious authorities. He gave the full and clear story of his life-- his transformation from being a persecutor of Jesus' followers to being a follower of Jesus. (See Acts 26.)

Acts

26:1 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:

26:2 I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews:

26:3 Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.

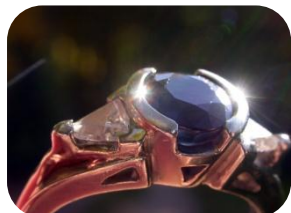
26:27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

26:29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am.

Activity

* How did you come to know about Jesus? Paul told his story to King Agrippa. What would you say if you were to tell others the story of your life, and of how you came to believe in Jesus? Give it a try.



Topic Treasures

—God Can Do It

Study Fun

Draw: A pictorial prayer list, of a few seemingly hard things that you want the Lord to do for you.

✓ Checkmark: All the things these verses say that God can do.

Write: Philippians 4:13 on a piece of paper, and decorate it with a colourful border. Post it to remind yourself of that fact!

Jeremiah 32:17 Ah, Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.

Jeremiah 32:27 Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

Psalms 118:8 It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

Psalms 118:9 It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

Deuteronomy 31:8 And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

2 Chronicles 14:11 And Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let no man prevail against thee.

Job 42:2a I know that thou canst do every thing.

2 Samuel 22:33 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.

Deuteronomy 31:8 And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.





Daily Diary

*Remembering the verse, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
(Philippians 4:13)

List some things that you are having a hard time doing or learning, and want to claim this promise for!