

**HEROES**

**OF THE**

**FAITH**

Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power



**GIDEON WINS BATTLE WITH ONLY 300 MEN**

**HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012**

[www.missionarlington.org](http://www.missionarlington.org)

No part of this curriculum may be republished without permission.  
Please feel free to copy for classroom use.

  
**Mission**<sup>®</sup>  
Arlington † Metroplex  
*Taking church to the people*



**14**

## **GIDEON WINS BATTLE WITH ONLY 300 MEN**

### **Memory Verse:**

I am the LORD All-Powerful. So don't depend on your own power or strength, but on my Spirit. Zechariah 4:6b (CEV)

### **Lesson Goals:**

#1 - Understand how ordinary Gideon was

#2 - Discover what faith led Gideon to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

### **Audience:**

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

### **Scripture to Study:**

Judges 6, 7, 8

1 Samuel 12;11

Hebrews 11:32-12:3

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our hero:** Gideon

**His Heroic Feat:** Obeys God

Obedying God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

The Bible tells us that "once again the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord." (Judges 6:1a NIV) After the victory of Deborah and Barak, the people of Israel went right back to their old ways - their evil, sinful ways. "So for seven years [God] handed them over to the people of Midian." (Judges 6:1b NIV) They were treated badly by the people of Midian, so badly that they hid in caves and other safe places.

The people finally cried out to God and He heard them. He sent the angel of the Lord to a man named Gideon. The angel of the Lord greeted Gideon, "Mighty warrior, the Lord is with you. . . . You are strong. Go and save Israel from the power of Midian. I am sending you." (Judges 6:12b, 14b NIV)

Gideon couldn't imagine how he could save Israel from anything. No one who knew him thought he was a mighty warrior. He wasn't from the strongest family in his tribe and he wasn't even very important in his own family, in fact, he was the least important.

The Lord answered Gideon's fears by promising to be with him. God's Spirit came upon Gideon and he blew a trumpet to call the army. After all of his men had set up camp, the Lord spoke to Gideon. "I want to hand Midian over to you. But you have too many men for me to do that. I do not want Israel to brag that their own strength has saved them." (Judges 7:2 NIV) You see, 32,000 men had answered Gideon's call to battle. God told Gideon to give those who were afraid the opportunity to return home, so 22,000 left leaving Gideon with 10,000 men. God said 10,000 were still too many and that He would sort out the men that remained. He did it by watching how they drank water at the river. Some men bent over and lapped the water up. Others knelt down, filled their hands with water and brought it up to their mouths. Then, "the Lord spoke to Gideon. He said, 'With the help of the 300 men who lapped up water I will save you. I will hand the Midianites over to you. Let all of the other men go home.'" (Judges 7:7 NIV)

Can you imagine? God said they had too many men to go into battle! He whittled the Israelite army from 32,000 down to 300. Maybe the enemy had a small army. Not so. The Midianites and those who were fighting with them numbered 120,000 men! (Judges 8:10) If they thought they were outnumbered before, they were really outnumbered now! But what had God promised? God promised to be with Gideon and to hand the Midianites over to Gideon. Let's see how it happened.

"Gideon separated the 300 men into three companies. He put a trumpet and an empty jar into the hands of each man. And he put a torch inside each jar." (Judges 7:16 NIV) That doesn't sound like the best way to prepare for battle, does it? Well, neither does going in with only 300 men! It was about 10:00 at night when the three companies of men separated and surrounded the Midianite army that was camped in the valley. "Gideon and his men blew their trumpets. They broke the jars that were in their hands. . . Then they shouted the battle cry, 'A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!'" (Judges 7:19b, 20b NIV) Gideon's army didn't move, but the Midianite army ran away in fear. Those that had come to help the Midianite army started fighting each other and died in battle. The people of Israel brought the frightened Midianite army under their control and the land was at peace for 40 years.

### ***YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!***

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Gideon obeyed God. Nothing God asked Gideon to do made sense. But Gideon's obedience was rewarded with peace. God planned the battle so that he would get the credit, not the Israelite army.

Our memory verse says, "I am the LORD All-Powerful. So don't depend on your own power or strength, but on my Spirit." (Zechariah 4:6b CEV) God wants to do something amazing in your life! Are you ready to quit trying to make things work? Are you ready to see God's Spirit at work in your life? It begins by putting God in control of your life. Let me help you take that first step.



**NEXT WEEK**  
Jesus (Easter)

# PRE-SCHOOL!

## LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our hero:** Gideon

**His Heroic Feat:** Obeys God

Obeying God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

The Bible tells us that the people of Israel did not obey God. They had problems when the people from Midian ruled over them and treated them badly. They were treated so badly by the people of Midian that they hid in caves and other safe places.

They cried out to God for help. He heard them. He chose Gideon to save Israel from the power of Midian.

Gideon called an army together, but God said there were too many men. You see, 32,000 men had answered Gideon's call to battle. God told Gideon to ask if anyone was afraid. More than half of the army left. They were down to 10,000. God said 10,000 were still too many. God sorted out the men that remained. He did it by watching how they drank water at the river. Some men bent over and lapped the water up. Others knelt down, filled their hands with water and brought it up to their mouths. God said, "With the help of the 300 men who lapped up water I will save you. I will hand the Midianites over to you. Let all of the other men go home." (Judges 7:7 NIV)

So Gideon took the 300 men that were left and divided them into three companies. He gave each one a trumpet and an empty jar. He put a torch inside each jar. At 10:00 that night the three companies of men separated and surrounded the Midianite army that was camped in the valley.

"Gideon and his men blew their trumpets. They broke the jars that were in their hands. . . . Then they shouted the battle cry, 'A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!'" (Judges 7:19b, 20b NIV) Gideon's army didn't move, but the Midianite army ran away in fear. Those that had come to help the Midianite army started fighting each other and died in battle. The people of Israel brought the frightened Midianite army under their control and the land was at peace for 40 years.

# ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Print the memory verse on a long, thin strip of paper. Fold the strip of paper back and forth like an accordion. Attach the strip of paper to two sticks of construction paper dynamite.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "My God is So Big," "What a Mighty God We Serve," "Awesome in this Place," "Mighty to Save," "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," "Not by Might, Not by Power Zechariah 4:6" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Make small clay pots out of modeling clay.
- Make trumpets. Be creative.
- Re-enact the story.
- **For more training:** Read Ephesians 6:10-18. Discuss being soldiers of Christ in light of the lesson.

I am the  
***LORD ALL-POWERFUL.***

So don't depend  
on your own power  
or strength,  
but on my Spirit.

Zechariah 4:6

**HEROES**

**OF THE**

**FAITH**

Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power

# ***HERO IN TRAINING***

Gideon Wins Battle With Only 300 Men

**HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012**

[www.missionarlington.org](http://www.missionarlington.org)

No part of this curriculum may be republished without permission.  
Please feel free to copy for classroom use.

 **Mission**<sup>®</sup>  
Arlington † Metroplex  
*Taking church to the people*



# HERO TRAINING!

**Scripture:** Judges 6, 7, 8

**Memory verse:**

I am the LORD All-Powerful. So don't depend on your own power or strength, but on my Spirit. Zechariah 4:6b (CEV)

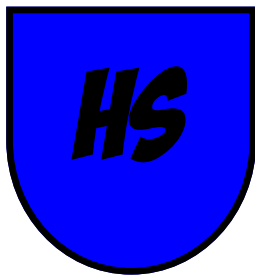
**Our Hero:** \_\_\_\_\_

What did our hero do that was so heroic? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have the power? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Ephesians 6:10-18. According to these verses, how can we depend on the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Cut along the dotted lines. Arrange the coded message to find your  
memory verse. Write the verse below.

power or strength, but on

on your own Zechariah 4:6

I am the LORD All-Powerful.

So don't depend my Spirit.

-----  
-----  
-----  
-----

WORD

SEARCH!

B D C N F F E P M N G H O  
S R J O S H U A L E A D S  
N G N R A N T C V E E S V  
O B W A L N O E D I G J O  
S T E P M U R T E E S O M  
W E P Y C S C W R D N I W  
O C I R W S H S D S E H E  
R E T O L L E E N E N U D  
D D R T O E S H U D D A J  
S S O C S R H S H L N C V  
M I D I A N I T E S A H I  
A R E V P D E P E R D E R  
M T C L A Y J A R S C S N  
F N O I T W O S H I E S C  
R O I R R A W Y T H G I M

- Gideon
- mighty warrior
- Midianites
- three hundred
- no swords
- clay jars
- torches
- trumpets
- victory

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Cut along the dotted lines. Arrange the coded message to find your  
memory verse. Write the verse below.

power or strength, but on  
on your own Zechariah 4:6  
I am the LORD All-Powerful.  
So don't depend my Spirit.

I am the LORD All-Powerful.  
So don't depend on your own power or strength,  
but on my Spirit.  
Zechariah 4:6

# WORD

# SEARCH!

Answer Page



- Gideon
- mighty warrior
- Midianites
- three hundred
- no swords
- clay jars
- torches
- trumpets
- victory