

Old Testament

Mission Arlington ◦ Mission Metroplex Curriculum ◦ 2011

One Year Plan



GOD'S WORD

Created for use with young, unchurched learners Adaptable for all ages.

GIDEON



JUDGES 6-7

Memory Verse:

We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us.
2 Corinthians 4:7

Lesson Goals

1. Understand that Gideon was afraid to fight the Midianites.
2. Learn that God sent an angel to tell Gideon that God would help them.
3. Understand that God continued to show Gideon that He was with him.
4. Recognize that God was faithful to deliver Israel when they obeyed Him.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us from sin.
3. Ask God to help you follow Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to be delivered from sin.

GOD'S WORD

Read Judges 7:9-25. (Hold your Bible throughout the story.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God helped Gideon defeat the enemy. God wants to help us defeat the enemy of sin in our lives. Sin separates us from God. That is why He sent Jesus to die for us—to take away our sins. Have you opened your heart to God and invited Christ into your life? It is the only way to have eternal life. It is a free gift! Invite Jesus into your heart today.

Application

Sometimes we all feel weak like Gideon. But when we have Jesus in our life, He gives us power to live for Him. That is what the memory verse is talking about when it says, “We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us.” (2 Corinthians 4:7) We don’t have to feel alone because God is with us. He proves it to us by helping us in every situation of life.

Begin With Prayer

After Deborah died, God’s people (the Israelites) followed God for a while, but then they began to worship statues instead of God and do wrong things. Because of this, they had some hard times. A group of people called the Midianites were cruel to them. In fact, God’s people hid in caves to escape from the Midianites.

One day a man named Gideon was sifting wheat. Suddenly an angel appeared and said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!” Gideon was surprised. He asked the angel why God was not helping His people. He wondered why they were having such a hard time. The angel told him that he was the one that would help God’s people. Gideon explained to the angel that he was the weakest person in his family. He certainly couldn’t conquer the Midianites. But God told Gideon that He would be with him. Gideon was unsure, so he decided to ask for proof. “God, show me that you are really talking to me. Please wait here until I return.” Gideon ran to bring an offering to God.

The angel told Gideon to put the meat and bread under the tree. Gideon followed the instructions. When the angel touched the food with his stick, it burst into flames! Gideon realized that he WAS talking to an angel. He became scared, but God told him everything was fine.

That night God told Gideon that he must break down his father’s idol. So, that night, he and ten servants broke down the idol statue. The next morning, everyone was mad. They wanted someone to pay for the destruction of the idol. But Gideon’s father told the people, “Let the idol take care of himself if he is real.” Nothing happened. The people realized that the idol was just a statue; it was not the true God.

Again, Gideon told God that he wanted proof that He would help him to defeat the Midianites. He set out some wool (fleece) in the grass. He told God only to have dew on the wool but not on the grass. That next morning, the wool was wet but the grass wasn’t wet! But Gideon decided he needed *more* proof. He asked God to make the wool dry and the grass wet. Sure enough, the next morning the fleece was dry and the grass was wet!

The next day Gideon and his people were ready to go into battle. But God told Gideon to announce that anyone who was afraid could go home. So about 22,000 men left, leaving 10,000 men to fight. But God knew that if Gideon had that many people, God would not get the credit for helping them. So, he told Gideon to choose only the people who lapped up water with their hands when they drank. Only 300 men did this, and the rest were sent home! Gideon trusted God. He knew that only God could help them win the battle because the Midianites had thousands of fighting men!

In the middle of the night, God told Gideon to get up and get ready. God told Gideon to go to the enemy camp and listen to what they were saying. “After that, you will not be afraid to attack the camp.” When Gideon went, he heard one man tell about a dream he had. The friend of the man said, “God has handed the Midianites over to Gideon.” Gideon left and worshipped God.

Gideon returned to the camp and divided the men into three groups and gave them trumpets and fiery torches which were in dark jars so that they could not be seen. When they surrounded the camp, Gideon blew his trumpet and brought out his torch. All the men did this, too.

The Midianites were so shocked and scared that they panicked! “God caused all of the men in the enemy camp to start fighting each other. They attacked each other with their swords.” (Judges 7:21-25) All the people knew that it was God who helped them.

It took lots of proof for Gideon to finally believe. Gideon did have to trust God and go forward into battle. God was faithful. He did what He said.

Review

1. **What happened to Israel?** (The Midianites were oppressing them.)
2. **What did God do?** (God sent Gideon to deliver them.)
3. **What happened next?** (God showed Gideon that He would hand over his enemies.)
4. **What did God do next?** (God delivered Israel.)

Planning for the next week: Samson – Judges 13-16

Memory Verse

We are like clay jars in
which this treasure is
stored. The real power
comes from God and not
from us.

2 Corinthians 4:7

Preschool Lesson

Read Judges 7:9-25. (Hold your Bible throughout the story.)

Memory verse for younger children:

The real power comes from God and not from us. 2 Corinthians 4:7

Teacher: Bring a flashlight and a jar to tell the story.

Begin With Prayer

A group of people called the Midianites were cruel to God's people. In fact, God's people hid in caves to escape their mean ways.

One day a man named Gideon was sifting wheat. Suddenly an angel appeared and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!" Gideon was surprised. The angel told him that he was the one that would help God's people. Gideon didn't understand, because he was not a warrior at all! He explained to the angel that he was the weakest person in his family. He certainly couldn't conquer the Midianites.

God told Gideon that He would be with him. Gideon was unsure, so he decided to ask for proof. "God, show me that you are really talking to me. Please wait here until I return." Gideon ran to bring an offering to God. The angel told Gideon to put the meat and bread under the tree. Gideon followed the instructions. When the angel touched the food with his stick, it burst into flames! Gideon realized that he WAS talking to an angel. He became scared, but God told him everything was fine.

Again, Gideon told God that he wanted proof that He would help him. He set out some wool (fleece) in the grass. He told God only to have dew on the wool and not on the grass. The next morning, the wool was wet but the grass wasn't wet! (You may have to explain what dew is) Gideon decided he needed more proof. He asked God to make the wool dry and the grass wet. Sure enough, the next morning the wool was dry and the grass was wet!

The next day Gideon and his people were ready to go into battle. But God told Gideon to announce that anyone who was afraid could go home. Many men left, but lots remained—about 10,000! That would still be enough to fight the enemy. But God knew that if Gideon had that many people, God would not get the credit for helping them. So, he told Gideon to choose only the people who lapped up water with their hands when they drank. Believe it or not, only 300 men did this! Gideon trusted God. He knew that only God could help them win the battle because the Midianites had *thousands* of fighting men!

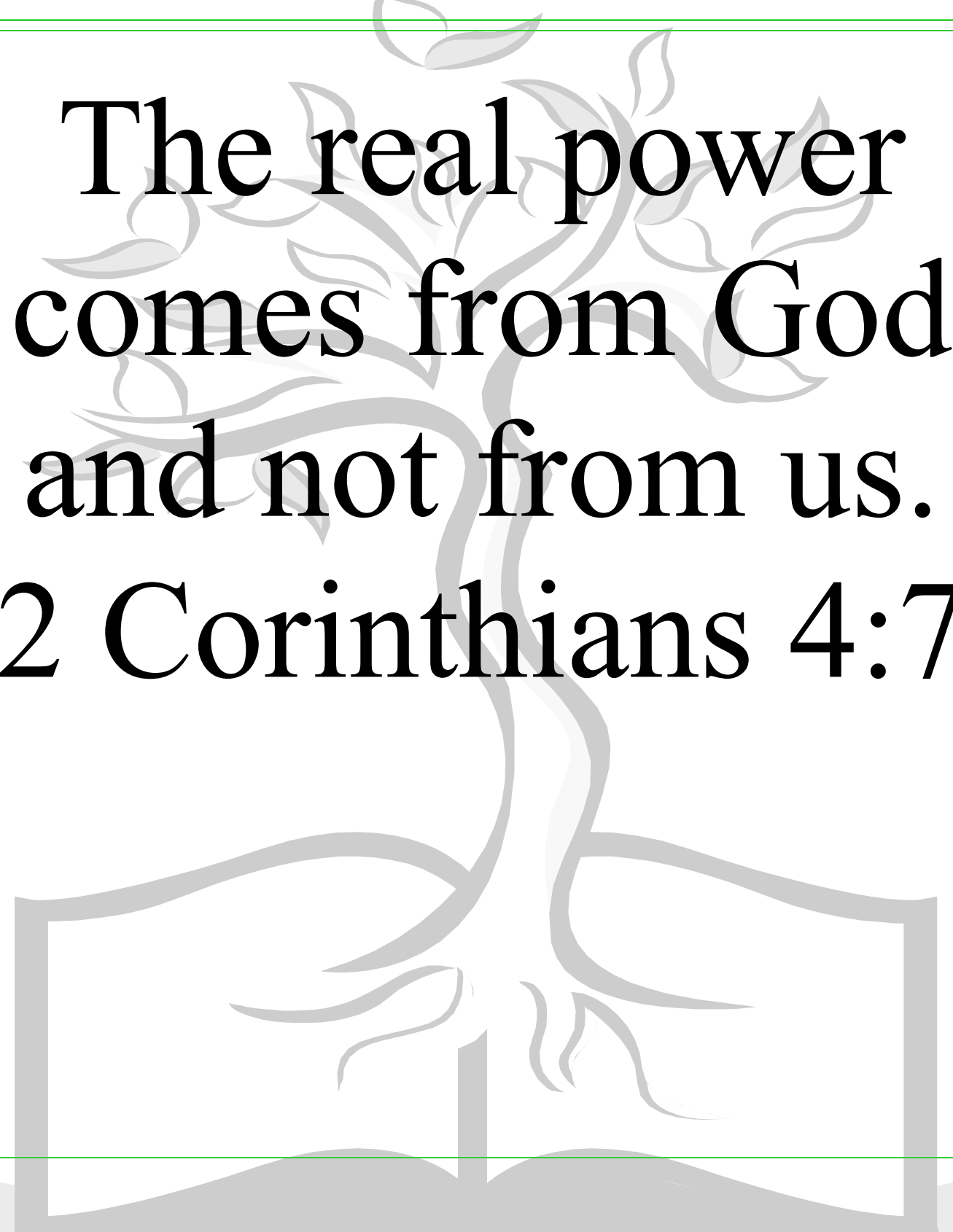
In the middle of the night, God told Gideon to get up and get ready. He divided the men into three groups and gave them trumpets and fiery torches which were in dark jars so that it could not be seen. When they surrounded the camp, Gideon blew his trumpet and brought out his torch. All the men did this, too.

The Midianites were so shocked and scared that they panicked! God won the battle! All the people knew that **it was God who helped them!**

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us.
3. Ask God to help you trust Him

Preschool Memory Verse



**The real power
comes from God
and not from us.
2 Corinthians 4:7**

Learning Activities

Memory verse activity — Make torches out of paper bags. Put orange, yellow, red and brown tissue paper to make the flames or color the flames. Write the Bible verse on the torch.

Taste activity — Make Gideon's wheat snacks to eat. Use crackers and peanut butter to make delicious snacks to remind the children of Gideon's old job—a farmer.

Share snacks like bugles to remember the horns and torches the Israelites used.

Think about it — Gideon was afraid and hid from the angel. Talk about what Gideon might have felt. Decorate a clothes pin to look like Gideon. Hide the clothes pin and let the kids find "him."

Gideon asked why God had abandoned Israel. Talk about the pattern of sin in Israel. Talk about how God sent Jesus to save us from sin.

Touch activity — Make Paper Torches. Overlap pieces of paper or newsprint. Roll into a cylinder and cut 2 or 3 inches down around the top to make a frayed edge. Pull on the top as you turn the cylinder and the torch will grow in size.

Create Trumpets using the pattern and paper towel rolls.

Use cotton to make Fleece.

Run and play — Play the "Wool game." Fleece comes from sheep, so play this fun game with smaller kids. Have the children stand in a circle. Have one child sit in the center and blindfold him/her. Have the children walk around the circle until the blindfolded child says "stop." Now he points to a "sheep" who must "baa" like a sheep. The blindfolded child must try to guess who is "baaing." If he is right, the two will switch places. If he is wrong, he will get another chance to see who is "baaing."

Play Hide and Seek.

Listen — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to trust and obey Him.

Sing — Sing "Have Faith in God," "I'm in the Lord's Army," "My God is So Big," or another song related to the story.

Reach out — During class, pray for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take the torches with the memory verse for them.

Rooted and Grounded



Pray

Thank God for sending Jesus to save us from our sins.
Thank Him for His Holy Spirit who gives us the power to live for Him.
Pray for salvation for those who have not accepted Christ yet.

Read the Bible Daily

This week, read Judges 6-7 about Gideon.

Think About It

God chose Gideon for a reason. He knew that through Gideon's life, He would be honored and glorified. Many times God chooses those who are weak so that He can make them strong. Then the glory goes to God.

Also, God was patient with Gideon during his times of doubt. God is patient with us, too. But we should try to trust Him and not wait to follow His instructions.

Do It

Has God chosen you to do something for Him? Maybe you need to trust Him by letting Him take control of your life. If you have done that, He may want you to teach others about Him. Don't hesitate to follow Him. He will give you the power you need to do His will.

Tell About It

Share the Bible story with a friend. Talk about how when a person receives Christ, He gives them His Holy Spirit who helps us live for Him. We don't do things in our own strength.

Change it

If you are still feeling weak in your faith, ask God to give you more faith to trust Him more. Then wait and see what He calls you to do!

Study it

Attend Bible study this week. Read a chapter out of Psalms and Proverbs each day.

Word Art

Trace the letters.

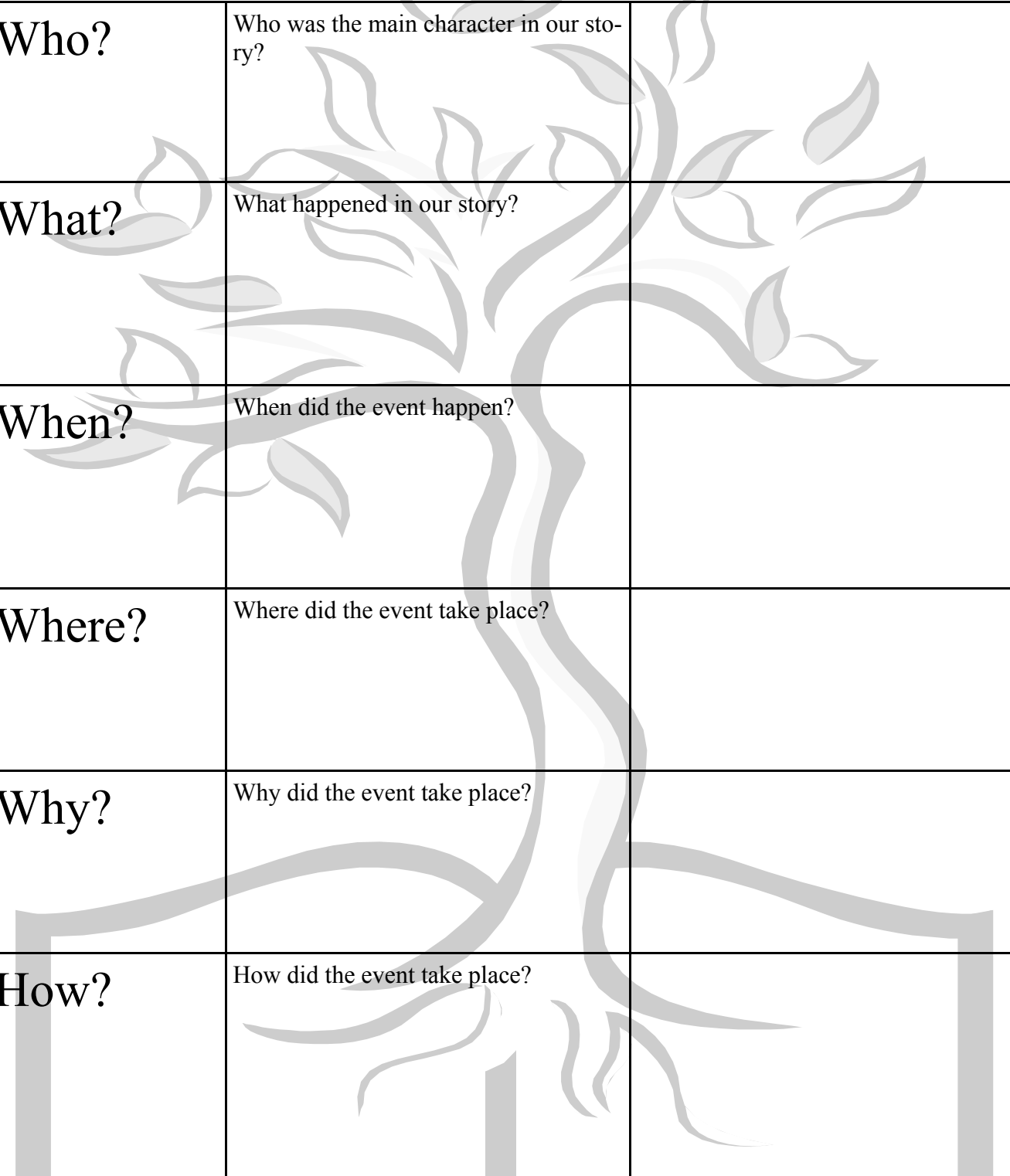
An angel

spoke to

Gideon

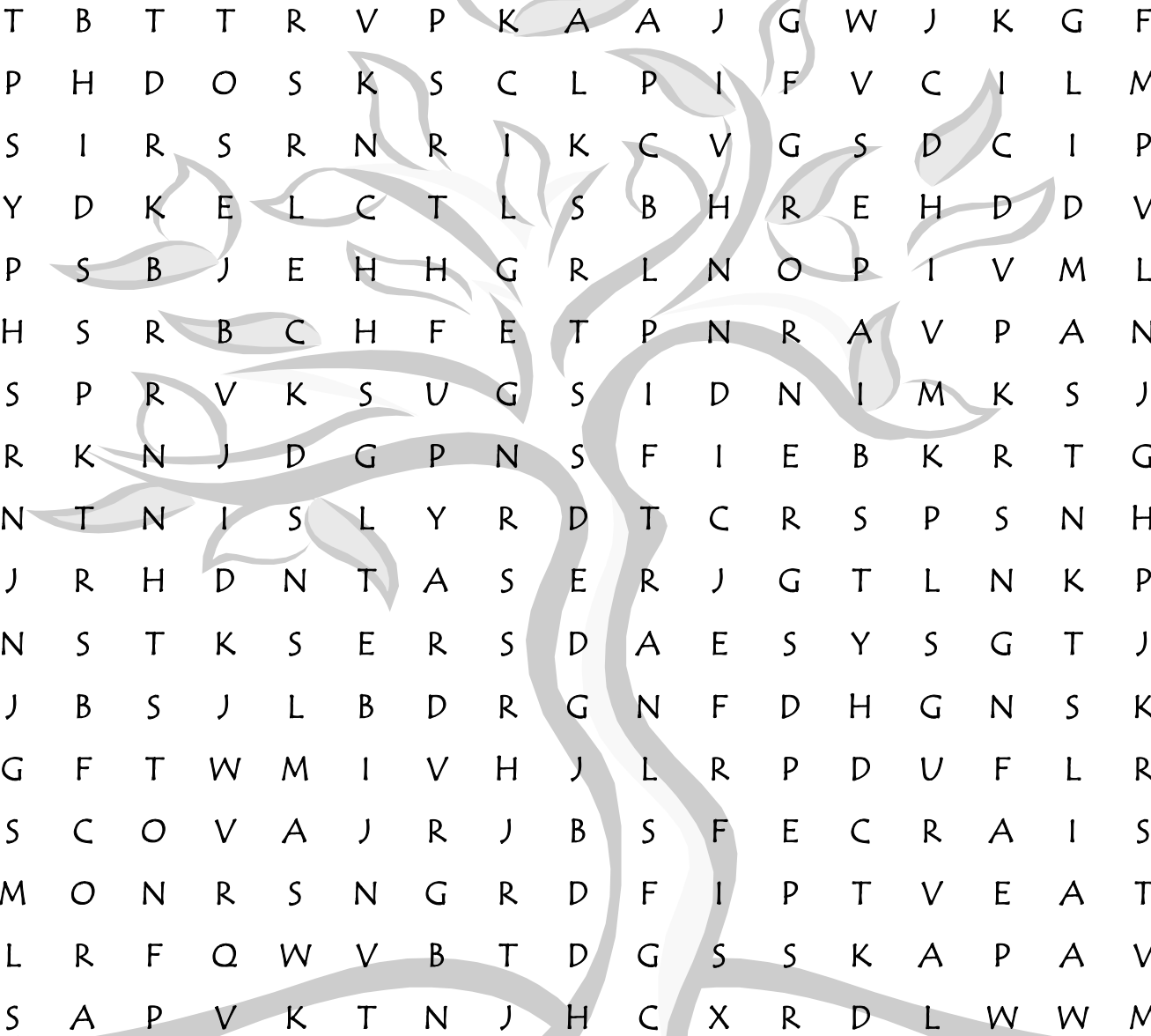
GOD'S WORD

Learning the Facts



Who?	Who was the main character in our story?	
What?	What happened in our story?	
When?	When did the event happen?	
Where?	Where did the event take place?	
Why?	Why did the event take place?	
How?	How did the event take place?	

Word Search



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

ISRAEL

GIDEON

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AFRAID

THREE HUNDRED

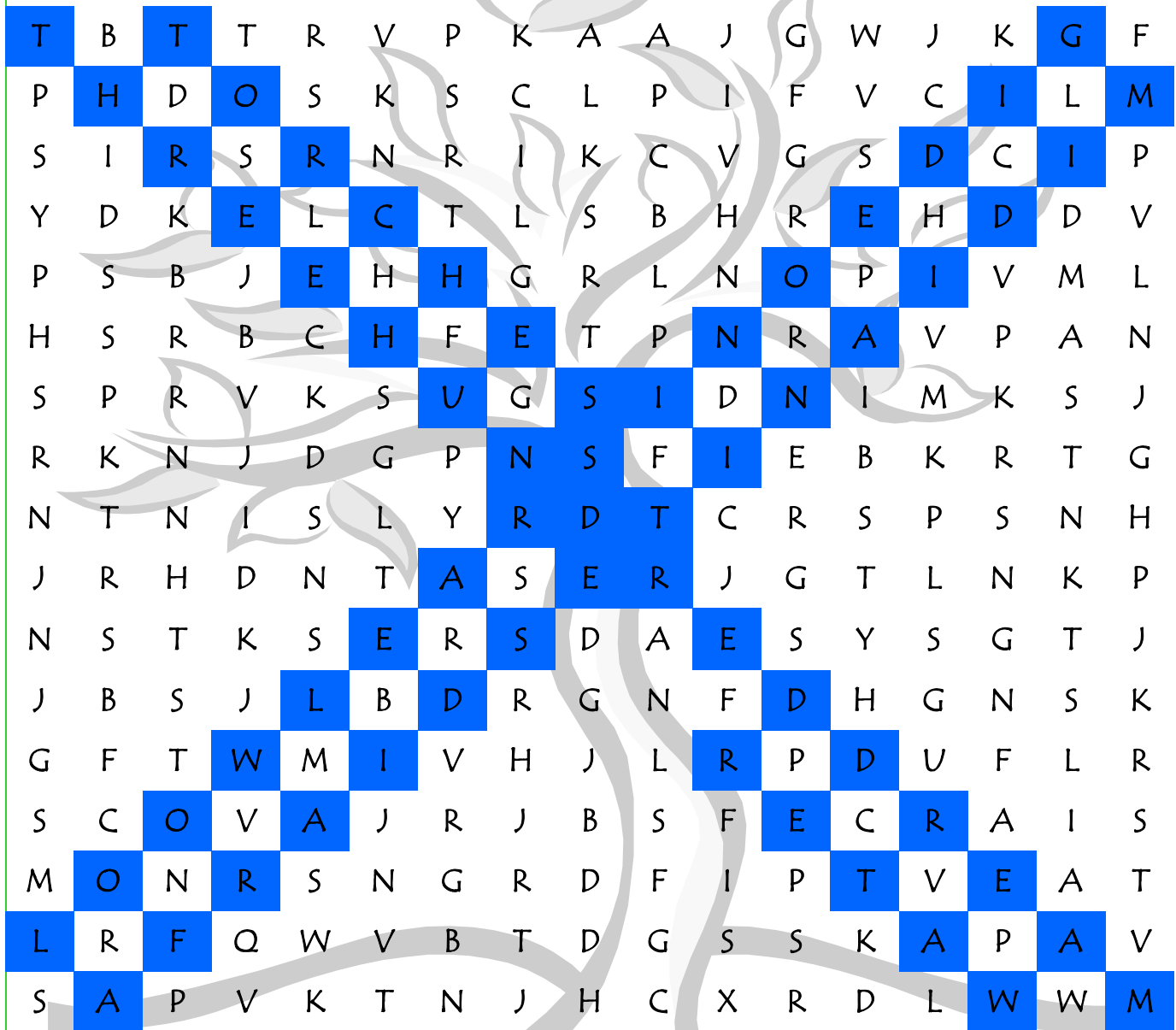
WATER

DREAM

MIDIANITES

TORCHES

Word Search Solution



ISRAEL

GIDEON

WOOL

AFRAID

THREE HUNDRED

WATER

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TORCHES

Preschool Word Search

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

GIDEON

ANGEL

HIDE

WHEAT

FIGHT

ENEMY

Preschool Word Search Solution

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

GIDEON

ANGEL

HIDE

WHEAT

FIGHT

ENEMY

Anagram

GIDEON

WHEAT

ANGEL

GHYTIM

OAIRRRW

SAETIIDMNN

EFELEC

EWD

GHIFT

GOD'S WORD

Anagram Solution

GIDEON

WHEAT

ANGEL

MIGHTY

WARRIOR

MIDIANITES

FLEECE

DEW

FIGHT

GOD'S WORD