

GIDEON or MIDIAN?

CHARACTERS: 8 (Can double NARRATOR and MIDIANITES with WOMEN) GIDEON sounds afraid and reluctant until the end.

COSTUMES: Biblical

PROPS: None needed

SETTING: Israel in the time of Judges

RUN TIME: 4 scenes, 9 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Judges 6 & 7

Scene 1

NARR: While Deborah was judge, Israel had 40 years of peace. But then they started worshiping Baal and other false gods.

PURAH: We did evil and God allowed the Midianites to oppress us. It was awful. We had to live in caves to hide from them.

NARR: Finally the Israelites called to God to save them.

PURAH: And God did an unexpected thing. He sent an angel to my master, Gideon.

ANGEL: The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.

GIDEON: *(looking around, confused)* Who are you talking to?

ANGEL: You.

GIDEON: I'm no warrior.

ANGEL: God says differently.

GIDEON: Pardon me, my lord, but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? God has abandoned us to the mean Midianites. Every time we plant crops, they ruin them. They, kill our sheep, cattle and donkeys. We have to live in caves to hide from them.

ANGEL: Go in in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. God, himself is sending you.

GIDEON: Pardon me, my lord, but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family. *(Embarrassed)* They call me chicken and spaghetti spine.

ANGEL: God will be with you, and when you strike down all the Midianites, God will get the credit. Now for starters, God says tear down your father's altar to Baal, build a proper kind of altar and sacrifice his bull as an offering.

GIDEON: Dad's not going to like this. Neither will anyone in town... *(Angels exit, Gideon calls outs)* Purah, I need you. Come here. *(Purah enters, Gideon whispers in their ears)*

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PURAH: Destroy the Baal altar? Are you crazy?

GIDEON: Shhhh. It's a secret mission, hush. We'll do it at night. Get 9 more servants but quietly.

PURAH: Why? Are you afraid of your family and the townspeople? (*Gideon nods*)

NARR: In the morning the people were shocked to see Baal's altar destroyed.

Scene 2

WOMAN: 1: Who did this? Who destroyed the Baal altar?

WOMAN 2: I heard it was Gideon.

WOMAN 1: He's going to be in big trouble.

WOMAN 2: With a capital T. They'll have him executed.

WOMAN 1: Here comes Gideon's dad now. What's he saying?

WOMAN 2: "Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you trying to save him? If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar."

WOMAN 1: If the crowd doesn't kill Gideon, I bet those horrible, terrible Midianites will.

WOMAN 2: How?

WOMAN 1: Gideon has blown a trumpet and assembled an army to go fight them.

WOMAN 2: He must be crazy. First the altar and now Gideon thinks he can fight the Midianites? There's too many of them!

Scene 3

GIDEON: (*Praying*) God, this is spaghetti spine Gideon. I was wondering. Could you give me a little sign that you really will use me to save Israel?

ANGEL: (*entering*) What kind of sign?

GIDEON: (*Jumping from fright*) Where did you come from?

ANGEL: God of course.

GIDEON: I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that God will save Israel by my hand.

ANGEL: God parted the Red Sea and all you want is a wet sheepskin? Piece of cake.

NARR: That is exactly what happened. Gideon got up, squeezed the fleece and wrung out an entire bowlful of water.

GIDEON: Do not be angry but I want to do one more test with the fleece.

ANGEL: Another test?

GIDEON: Just a little one. This time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew.

ANGEL: God brought down the walls of Jericho and all you want is a dry sheepskin. Piece of cake.

NARR: That night God made the fleece dry and all the ground was covered with dew.

GIDEON: Ok. Tests done. Let's go.

ANGEL: The tests aren't done. Now it's God's turn to test YOU! God says you have too many men. He wants you to take fewer so Israel won't say, 'My own strength has saved me'.

GIDEON: I only have 32,000 men. The Midianites have a huge, gigantic army compared to me.

ANGEL: Announce to the army that any scaredy cats can go home.

GIDEON: OK. *(pause)* Twenty-two thousand men left; only ten thousand are still with me.

ANGEL: God says it is still too many. Take them down to the water to get a drink. Any who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps should be separated out.

GIDEON: Ok. So should I send home the 300 who drank like dogs and keep the other 9,700?

ANGEL: No. Only keep 300.

GIDEON: 300! Only 300 against that big mean Midianite army?

ANGEL: With the three hundred men that lapped God will save you. Let all the others go home. Now once the Midianites go to sleep, you and your servant Purah can sneak down and listen in on what the Midianites are saying.

GIDEON: Why would I want to go down there?

ANGEL: Trust God. What you hear will give you courage and change your spaghetti spine into a spine of steel.

Scene 4

NARR: So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

GIDEON: Ok. Let's sneak down to where the mean Midianite army is camped and listen in.

PURAH: I'm with you. But check out how many there are. We couldn't count their camels any more than we can count the sand on the seashore.

GIDEON: Shhh. Listen.

MIDIANITE 1: I had a dream that a round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into our camp. It struck my tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.

MIDIANITE 2: This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon. Their God will let them win this battle.

NARR: When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshiped. Then he returned to his army.

GIDEON: Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite army into your hands.

PURAH: Gideon wants you to divide up into three groups. Everyone take a trumpet and an empty jar with a torch inside.

GIDEON: (*Sounding like a brave soldier*) Watch me. Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, blow our trumpets, and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.

NARR: Everyone flowed orders. All the Midianites turned on each other with their swords.

PURAH: We won! We won the battle with 300 men.

GIDEON: (*Confident and sure*) No, God won the battle. Don't ever forget that.

PURAH: You should rule over us—you, your son and your grandson—because you have saved us from the hand of Midian.

GIDEON: I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The LORD will rule over you.

Free interactive games based on Judges

Gideon Battleship

<http://www.quia.com/ba/345418.html>

God gives victory with unusual weapons matching

<http://www.quia.com/jg/1783606.html>

Judges 1-5 rags to riches

<http://www.quia.com/rr/541407.html>

Judges 9 -12 hangman

<http://www.quia.com/hm/661388.html>

Judges Who did what?

<http://www.quia.com/jg/1518810.html>

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