

Judges 6-8

CHARACTERS: Gideon, Puah, Voice of God, All

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Judges 6-8

FK reading level 4.6

Midian Oppresses Israel

NNN: The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

ALL: So the Lord handed them over to Midian seven years

GIDEON: The Israelites hid in the mountains, caves, and strongholds.

PUAH: Whenever the Israelites planted crops the Midianites, Amalekites, and the Qedemites destroyed the produce of the land

GIDEON: They left nothing for Israel to eat, as well as no sheep, ox or donkey.

ALL: The Midianites came like a great swarm of locusts.

GIDEON: They and their camels were without number

ALL: and they entered the land to waste it.

GIDEON: Israel became poverty-stricken because of Midian

ALL and the Israelites cried out to the Lord.

PUAH: This is what the Lord God of Israel says:

VOICE OF GOD: I brought you out of Egypt and out of the place of slavery.

ALL: God, you gave us this land.

VOICE OF GOD: I said to you: I am Yahweh your God. Do not fear the gods of the Amorites whose land you live in.

ALL: *(sad and ashamed)* But we did not obey you.

The Lord Calls Gideon

CHARACTERS: Gideon, Servant, Voice of God, Angel, All

PUAH: Gideon was threshing wheat in the wine vat

GGG: in order to hide it from the Midianites

ALL: when an angel came to him.

ANGEL: The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.

GIDEON: Please, sir, if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened? And where are all His wonders that our fathers told us about?

ALL: Our fathers say he brought us out of Egypt

GIDEON: But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to Midian.

VOICE OF GOD: Go in the strength you have and deliver Israel from the power of Midian. Am I not sending you?

GIDEON: Please, Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Look, my family is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house.

VOICE OF GOD: But I will be with you. You will strike Midian down as if it were one man.

GIDEON: If I have found favor in Your sight, give me a sign that You are speaking with me. Please do not leave this place until I return to You. Let me bring my gift and set it before You.

VOICE OF GOD: I will stay until you return.

PUAH: Gideon prepared a young goat and unleavened bread.

ANGEL: Take the meat with the unleavened bread, put it on this stone, and pour the broth on it.

ALL: Gideon did so.

GIDEON: (*awestruck*) The Angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of his staff

ALL: (*amazed*) Fire came up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread.

PUAH: Then the Angel of the Lord vanished from Gideon's sight.

GIDEON: (*worried*) Oh no, Lord God! I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face!

VOICE OF GOD: Peace to you. Don't be afraid, for you will not die.

GIDEON: I will build an altar to the Lord here and called it Yahweh Shalom.

Gideon Tears Down a Baal Altar

CHARACTERS: Gideon, Puah, Voice of God, Man 1 & 2, Joash, Angel, All

VOICE OF GOD: Take your father's young bull and a second bull seven years old. Then tear down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.

ANGEL: Build a well-constructed altar to the Lord your God on the top of this rock.

VOICE OF GOD: Take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down.

PUAH: So Gideon took 10 of his male servants and did as the Lord had told him.

GIDEON: (*somewhat ashamed*) But because I was too afraid of my father's household and the men of the city to do it in the daytime, I did it at night.

PUAH: When the men of the city got up in the morning

ALL: We found Baal's altar torn down, the Asherah pole beside it cut down

PUAH: and the second bull offered up on the altar that had been built.

MAN 1: (*angry*) Who did this?

PUAH: They made a thorough investigation.

MAN 2: Gideon son of Joash did it.

MAN 1: Joash, bring out your son.

ALL: He must die, because he tore down Baal's altar

MAN 2: and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.

JOASH: Would you plead Baal's case for him? Would you save him? Whoever pleads his case will be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead his own case because someone tore down his altar.

The Sign of the Fleece

CHARACTERS: Gideon, Puah, All

PUAH: All the Midianites, Amalekites, and Qedemites gathered together to attack us.

GIDEON: The Spirit of the Lord took control of me

PUAH: Gideon he blew the ram's horn and the Abiezrites, the tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali rallied to him.

GIDEON: God, if You will deliver Israel by my hand, as You said, I will put a fleece of wool here on the threshing floor. If dew is only on the fleece, and all the ground is dry, I will know that You will deliver Israel by my strength, as You said.

ALL: And that is what happened.

PUAH: When he got up early in the morning, he squeezed the fleece and wrung dew out of it, filling a bowl with water.

GIDEON: God, don't be angry with me; let me speak one more time. Please allow me to make one more test with the fleece. Let it remain dry, and the dew be all over the ground.

ALL: That night God did as Gideon requested: only the fleece was dry, and dew was all over the ground.

God Selects Gideon's Army

CHARACTERS: Gideon, Puah, Voice of God, All

PUAH: The two armies drew up against each other.

VOICE OF GOD: Gideon, you have too many people for Me to hand the Midianites over to you, or else Israel might brag

ALL: I did it myself

VOICE OF GOD: Now announce in the presence of the people:

GIDEON: Whoever is fearful and trembling may turn back and leave.

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ALL: So 22,000 of the people turned back, but 10,000 remained.

VOICE OF GOD: There are still too many people. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there.

ALL: If God says

VOICE OF GOD: This one can go with you

ALL: he can go. But if God says

VOICE OF GOD: This one cannot go with you

ALL: he cannot go.

GIDEON: So I brought the people down to the water.

VOICE OF GOD: Separate everyone who laps water with his tongue like a dog.

ALL: Do the same with everyone who kneels to drink.

GIDEON: 300 men lapped with their hands to their mouths

VOICE OF GOD: I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped and hand the Midianites over to you. But everyone else is to go home.

PUAH: Those 300, who took the provisions and the trumpets.

GIDEON: The camp of Midian was below us in the valley.

Gideon Spies on the Midianite Camp

CHARACTERS: Gideon, Puah, Voice of God, Man, Friend, All

VOICE OF GOD: Get up and go into the camp, for I have given it into your hand. But if you are afraid to go to the camp, go with Puah your servant. Listen to what they say, and then you will be strengthened to go to the camp.

ALL: So they went.

GIDEON: The enemy seemed like a swarm of locusts

ALL: and their camels were as innumerable as the sand on the seashore.

GIDEON: When we arrived, a man was telling his friend about a dream.

MAN: Listen, I had a dream: a loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp, struck a tent, and it fell. The loaf turned the tent upside down so that it collapsed.

FRIEND: (*frightened*) This is nothing less than the sword of Gideon. God has handed the entire Midianite camp over to him.

GIDEON: When I heard the account of the dream and its interpretation,

ALL: He bowed in worship.

PUAH: We returned to Israel's camp.

GIDEON: Get up, for the Lord has handed the Midianite camp over to you

ALL: Gideon divided the 300 men into three companies

PUAH: and gave each of the men a trumpet in one hand and an empty pitcher with a torch inside it in the other.

GIDEON: When I come to the outpost of the camp, do as I do. When I and everyone with me blow our trumpets, you are also to blow your trumpets all around the camp. Then you will say

ALL: For Yahweh and for Gideon!

PUAH: The three companies blew their trumpets and shattered their pitchers.

ALL: We held our torches in our left hands

PUAH: Our trumpets in our right hands

ALL: A sword for Yahweh and for Gideon!

GIDEON: The entire Midianite army fled

PUAH: When we blew our 300 trumpets

ALL: the Lord set the swords of each man in the army against each other.

Gideon's Legacy

CHARACTERS: Gideon, Puah, All

PUAH: Then the Israelites said to Gideon

ALL: Rule over us, you as well as your sons and your grandsons, for you delivered us from the power of Midian.

GIDEON: Midian was subdued and no longer a threat.

ALL: The land was peaceful 40 years during the days of Gideon.

PUAH: But Gideon died

ALL: (*sadly*) the Israelites did not remember the Lord their God who had delivered them from the power of the enemies around them.

GIDEON: They turned to idols.

PUAH: They did not show kindness to the house of Gideon for all the good he had done for Israel.

Review games

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

Gideon hangman <http://www.quia.com/hm/812614.html>

Gideon rags to riches <http://www.quia.com/rr/899191.html>

Gideon unscramble <http://www.quia.com/jw/464513.html>