

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 1 - Lesson 32
Gideon (Judges 6:36-40)

Theme: Heroes

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The period of the Judges came between the time of Joshua (under whom the Israelites conquered the Holy Land and divided it among the tribes) and the period of the kings. They were not rulers, but army leaders.
- B. The story of Gideon teaches us that the power to gain victory over temptations comes from the Lord.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. The Children of Israel needed leaders to help them remember to follow the Lord Jehovah. The Lord chose leaders for them by sending an angel to the new leader.
- 2. One day Gideon was working in the field (he was a farmer) and he saw an angel sitting under a tree.
- 3. The angel told Gideon that he would lead the Israelites back to the Lord. But Gideon was afraid and wasn't sure if he could do this.
- 4. Gideon wanted the Lord to give him a sign - a miracle - so Gideon would know the Lord really would help him. The Lord did some miracles to show Gideon he really was the Lord, and to show him how powerful He was. We'll read about one of those miracles.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Judges 6:36-40

C. Ideas to discuss

- 1. What is the name of the man in this story? (Gideon)
- 2. What did the Lord want Gideon to do? (Lead the Israelites to follow the Lord and fight their enemies)
- 3. When Gideon first saw the angel, did he believe this was possible? (No)
- 4. What did Gideon want the Lord to do to show him that the Lord would really help Gideon? (A miracle)
- 5. What did Gideon put on the ground? (A fleece)
- 6. On the first morning the ground was dry but the fleece was? (Wet)
- 7. On the second morning the ground was wet but the fleece was? (Dry)
- 8. Then did Gideon know that he really was called by the Lord to be a leader? (Yes)

Preschool Sunday School Lessons: Phase 1 - Lesson 32

D. Further Ideas

1. With the Lord's help, Gideon became a great warrior and the Israelites conquered all their enemies.
2. Gideon knew it was really the Lord who conquered their enemies.
3. The people wanted Gideon to be king, but Gideon knew that the *Lord* should be their king.
4. When we need help the Lord can help us too, just like He helped Gideon. When do you need help? How can the Lord help you?

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "I'm in the Lord's Army" from *Wee Sing Bible Songs*

B. Activities

C. Project

1. Make a fleece:
 - a. Give each child a precut "fleece" shape cut from poster board or a strong paper
 - b. The children can glue soft white material of cotton balls on it to make it "fleecy"
 - c. Glue a text slip on the back: "Gideon said, "I will not rule over you—the Lord shall rule over you." (Judges 8:23)
 - d. Or glue a short outline of the story on back:

"Gideon wanted to know if the Lord could help him lead his country in battle. He asked the Lord to show him a miracle. First, the Lord made the fleece wet and all the ground dry. Then the Lord made the fleece dry and all the ground wet. Then Gideon knew that the Lord could do anything! (See Judges 6)"

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Lambskin
- B. Felt board and figures

V. Further Reading for the Teacher