# The Lord Wins the Battle

#### Judges 7:16-25; Judges 8:22-23,28

- **Big Ideas:** The power and light of the Lord's truth protects us and destroys our spiritual enemies. While the Lord rules our lives, we have peace.
- Overview: Gideon gives each man a trumpet and a pitcher with a torch in it. They go to the enemy camp, blow the trumpets, break the pitchers and shout, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!". The enemies are confused; they fight against each other and flee. Gideon pursues and destroys them. The men of Israel ask Gideon to be king, but he says that the Lord will rule over them. The children of Israel have peace for 40 years.

Lesson 4: The Lord Wins the Battle				
Lesson Sections	Activity Options	Materials Provided	Materials Needed	
<b>1. Welcome</b> (2-3 minutes)	<mark>Ages 3-6</mark> <i>The Shofar</i> introductory video	directions p. 2	device for watching video	
2. Reading & Discussion (5-7 minutes)	Ages 3-6 Read & discuss Judges 7-8	Judges 7-8 text p. 3 questions pp. 4-5		
<ol> <li>Projects &amp; Activities</li> <li>Choose 1-2 activities</li> <li>(15-20 minutes)</li> </ol>	Ages 3-6 Trumpets, Pitchers and Torches project	directions p. 6 <i>Trumpet Paper</i> p. 7 <i>Pitcher Page</i> p. 8 <i>Torch Paper</i> p. 9	scissors, tape, stapler, brown or white paper <i>optional</i> : crayons or markers	
<i>Note</i> : Activity ages are approximate. Choose activities that will work for your group.	Ages 7-10 <i>Gideon Bingo Review</i> game	directions pp. 10-11 Bingo Boards pp. 12-16	25 poker chips, coins, etc. for each student	
	Ages 11-14 With God All Things Are Possible quote challenge	directions pp. 17-18 Decorative Quote pp. 19-21	paper or index cards, scissors, colored pencils or markers	
	Ages 3-6 Gideon Blowing His Trumpet picture to color	p. 22	crayons or markers	
	Ages 3-6 Recitation	Recitation Cards p. 23	scissors or paper cutter	
<b>4. Closing</b> (2-3 minutes)	Ages 3-6 wrap up notes	p. 24		

## Welcome: Shofar Video

#### **Materials Needed**

device for showing Sound of the Shofar video at www.newchurchvineyard.org/ resource/video-sound-of-theshofar.

#### **Prepare in Advance**

Cue up the video.

#### New Church Concept Trumpets

was represented by the three hundred men who were with Gideon sounded round about the camp of Midian, Amalek, and the sons of the east. The reason why the trumpets produced this effect was the Divine truth through such that it perfects the good, but destroys the perfects the good is that these receive the Divine good which is in the truth, but it destroys the evil because these do not receive the Divine good. See Arcana Coelestia 8815.2

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- 1. What musical instruments are loud? (answers may vary)
- 2. When Gideon lived on earth, one of the loudest instruments people had was the trumpet. At that time, trumpets were made from the horns of animals such as goats and sheep. Trumpets made from animal horns are also called "shofars". (Two different kinds are shown below.)
- 3. Let's hear what a shofar sounds like. Watch *Sound of the Shofar*, online at www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-sound-of-the-shofar.
- 4. Have you heard a trumpet like that before? What did it sound like to you?
- 5. Imagine how loud it would be if 300 trumpets sounded at the same time. How might you feel if 300 trumpets sounded all around you? Each of Gideon's men had a trumpet in our story today. Let's find out what happened when their enemies heard the trumpets around them in the middle of the night.





## **Reading: The Lord Wins the Battle**

**Read:** Judges 7:16-25; Judges 8:22-23,28 excerpted below. For young children you may wish to summarize some of the story and read aloud the sentences in **bold.** There is an additional color picture to show on p. 24.

#### CHAPTER 7

<sup>15</sup> When Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, "Arise, for the Lord has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand." <sup>16</sup> Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.

<sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: <sup>18</sup> When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!'"

<sup>19</sup> So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands. <sup>20</sup> Then the three companies blew the trumpets



and broke the pitchers—they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing—and they cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" <sup>21</sup> And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled.

<sup>22</sup> When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the Lord set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.

<sup>23</sup> And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites.

<sup>24</sup> Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan." Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan. <sup>25</sup> And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.

#### **CHAPTER 8**

<sup>22</sup> Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian." <sup>23</sup> But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you." <sup>28</sup> Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon.

## **Discussion Questions**

#### New Church Concept Three Hundred

By the three hundred men in the story of Gideon a complete amount is meant, and the same is meant by three lines of battle into which the three hundred were divided. And by a hundred, the number in each line of battle, is meant much or enough, consequently that there were enough men to stand against Midian. See Arcana Coelestia 5955

#### New Church Concept Peace

"When angels are in a state of love they are in a state of peace, because this is when the good within them is united to what is true.... Much the same is true of us when we are being regenerated. When a union of the good and the true takes place within us, which happens principally after trials by temptation, we come into a state of delight that arises from heavenly peace." Heaven and Hell 289 The discussion questions are grouped by approximate age levels. If you have a mixed age group, we suggest you read through all the questions before class and decide which ones you wish to use.

### **Questions for Ages 3-6**

- 1. Thousands of Midianites came to steal Israel's harvest. For seven years Israelites planted crops, but enemies stole the food when it was ready to eat. The Israelites were hungry and scared. There were many enemies, but the Lord chose only 300 brave and eager men to fight against them.
- 2. What weapons did Gideon and his men use? (Trumpets, pitchers, torches and swords.)
- 3. The battle took place at night. Gideon and his men crept silently to the camp. Their enemies could not see them. Where did Gideon tell the men to stand? (The men stood in three groups, a group on each side of the enemy camp, surrounding them.)
- 4. What did Gideon do next? (Gideon told the soldiers to copy him. He blew his trumpet and shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!")
- 5. Do you think the enemies were surprised when the pitchers broke and the torches suddenly shone out in the night? (Yes! They could not see the men, and the trumpets were very loud. The Midianites didn't know there were so few soldiers. They probably thought there were many more.)
- 6. What did the enemies do? (In the dark, they fought each other and ran away. Gideon chased after them and won the battle.)
- 7. The Lord fights bad thoughts and feelings in our minds. He surrounds us with angels, as soldiers surrounded the camp. He speaks to us in His Word, and when the light of truth fills our minds the Lord gives us His peace.

### **Questions for Ages 7-10**

- 1. Thousands of Midianites stole Israel's harvests for seven years. Each time they planted crops the enemies stole them as they were ready to eat. The Israelites were hungry and scared. The Lord chose only 300 brave and eager men to fight enemies as numerous as the sand by the shore.
- 2. What weapons did Gideon and his men use? (Trumpets, pitchers, torches and swords.)
- 3. How did Gideon arrange the soldiers? (The men were in three groups, a group of 100 on each side of the enemy camp.)

- 4. What did Gideon do next? (Gideon told the soldiers to do as he did. He blew a trumpet and shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" Every man copied him.)
- 5. How might the enemies have felt when the trumpets blasted and torches suddenly lit the sky? (Surprised, confused. They fought each other and ran.)
- Did the Midianites escape? (No. Gideon called for more help and men from the tribes of Naphtali, Asher and Manasseh chased after the Midianites. Some went to river crossings to catch the men trying to escape.)
- 7. What honor did the men of Israel want to give Gideon? (They wanted to make him their king.) How did Gideon react? (He said no, the Lord would rule over them.)
- 8. Our spiritual enemies are selfish thoughts and feelings. The Lord protects us from them by surrounding us with His angels, as the soldiers surrounded the enemy camp. He speaks to us in His Word, as Gideon used a trumpet. And when we let the light of truth fills our minds the Lord gives us His peace.



### **Questions for Ages 11-14**

- 1. Thousands of Midianites and other enemies stole Israel's harvests for seven years. Whenever the crops ripened, enemies came to steal them. The Israelites were hungry and scared. The Lord chose 300 brave men to fight from the 32,000 who responded to Gideon's call. It was a small force to fight enemies that were as numerous as sand by the shore.
- 2. What weapons did Gideon and his men use? (Trumpets, pitchers, torches and swords.)
- 3. Gideon and his men crept to the camp under cover of darkness. What battle plan did Gideon use? (The Lord's plan. He divided men into three groups, and put 100 on each side of the enemy, to "flank" or surround them.) What advantages might this strategy have given Gideon?
- 4. How did Gideon lead the fight? (Gideon blew the trumpet, shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" and broke his pitcher so his torch shone out. Everyone did as he had done.)
- 5. How might the enemies have felt when the trumpets blared and torches suddenly shone out? (Surprised, confused.) The light of the torches is the light of truth. Imagine you are fighting selfish thoughts and feelings. What might "shine out" in your mind to make you stop and pay attention? (Seeing what is true.)
- 6. Did the Midianites escape? (No. Gideon called for more help and men from the tribes of Naphtali, Asher and Manasseh pursued them. The Ephraimites went to places where the Jordan River had shallow crossings to catch the men who were trying to escape.)
- 7. Why did the children of Israel want to make Gideon their king? How did Gideon react? (He said no, the Lord would rule over them—just as He should be the ruler in our lives.)
- 8. Our spiritual enemies are selfish thoughts, feelings, and actions towards others. The Lord protects us from these thoughts and feelings by surrounding us with His angels, as the soldiers surrounded the camp. Just as Gideon called the troops with a trumpet, the Lord calls us to action in His Word. When the light of truth fills our minds, the Lord gives us His peace.

### Trumpets, Pitchers, and Torches (Ages 3-6)

### Materials Needed for Each Student

Trumpet Paper p. 7, Pitcher Page p. 8, Torch Paper p. 9, piece of white or brown paper, scissors, stapler, tape optional: crayons or markers to color the trumpet, pitchers and torches if the pages were printed in black and white

#### **Prepare in Advance**

Print template pages in color, if possible. Trim white edges off trumpet and torch pages. Staple a piece of white or brown paper to the back of the pitcher on the non-handle side only, as shown in the picture above. This will allow space to insert the torch and "break" the pitcher to bring the torch out.

#### New Church Concept Pitchers

"Pitchers or water-pots, and also vessels generally, mean in the internal sense things that serve in the place of a receptacle, as facts and cognitions do in relation to truths, and as truths themselves do in relation to good. This becomes clear from many places in the Word." Arcana Coelestia 3079 With just 300 men, the Lord led Gideon to victory against thousands of Israel's enemies. Armed with trumpets, pitchers and torches Gideon and his men surprised their enemies, the Midianites, at night. The Midianites attacked each other and ran away. Children will make paper trumpets, torches and pitchers to reenact the way the Lord led Gideon to victory.

- 1. If printing in black and white, invite the children to color the pages, especially the fire on the torches.
- Give each child a *Trumpet Paper* (p. 7). Starting from one corner of the page, curl (roll) the paper into a horn shape. Tape to secure. Bend into a horn shape if desired (see photo).



- 3. Give each child a *Torch Paper* (p. 9). Using scissors, snip the fiery area along the white lines, or cut down randomly from the edge to create flames. Roll the paper into a tube and use tape to secure. Rolling the paper at a slight angle will make the torch appear to have more "flames". Gently fluff out or curl the cut ends to give the torch more fullness.
- 4. Give each child a prepared *Pitcher Page* (p. 8) stapled to a piece of backing paper. Using scissors, cut the *Pitcher* ONLY from the top down along the zig-zag lines. This will "break" the pitcher. Trim the edge around the pitcher. Place the torch, flame side down, in the pitcher.
- 5. Reenact the story. The teacher reads the script (below) while children act out the story using their trumpets, torches and pitchers.

Gideon said, "Arise, for the Lord has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand." Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.

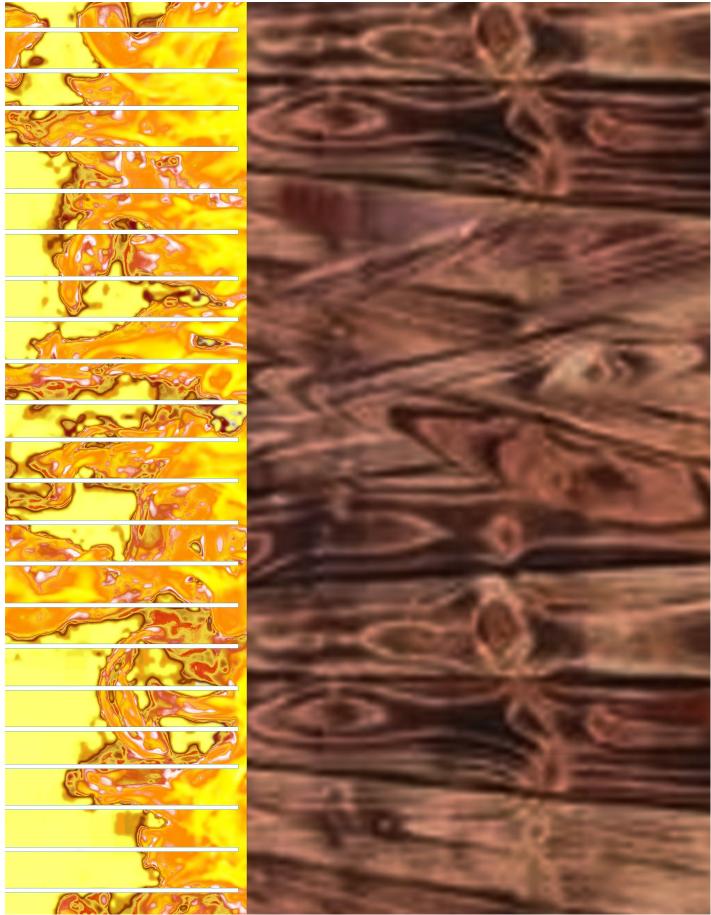
Gideon said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp and say, 'The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!'

So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers—they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing—and they cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. Judges 7:15-21





**Torch Paper** 



### **Gideon Review Bingo (Ages 7-10)**

#### Materials Needed for Each Student

Gideon Bingo Board (5 different boards are supplied pp. 12-16); 25 poker chips, coins, etc.; copy of the Word

#### Prepare in Advance

Print out the Bingo Cards and gather the other materials.

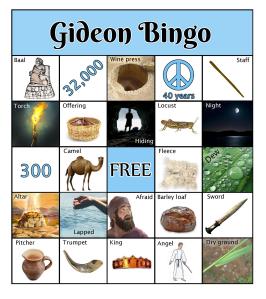
#### New Church Concept Torches

"All the people saw the voices and torches" means perception of God's truths that spring from good. This is clear from the meaning of seeing as understanding and perceiving, and from the meaning of torches as the brilliant flashes emitted by truths that spring from the good of love, which have a sharp and penetrating effect. See Arcana Coelestia 8914

#### New Church Concept Sword

"A sword symbolizes truths fighting against evils and falsities and destroying them." *Apocalypse Revealed* 323 Review the story of Gideon, Judges 6-8, by playing Gideon Bingo Review. The bingo questions are arranged in the order in which they appear in the text in order to review the story.

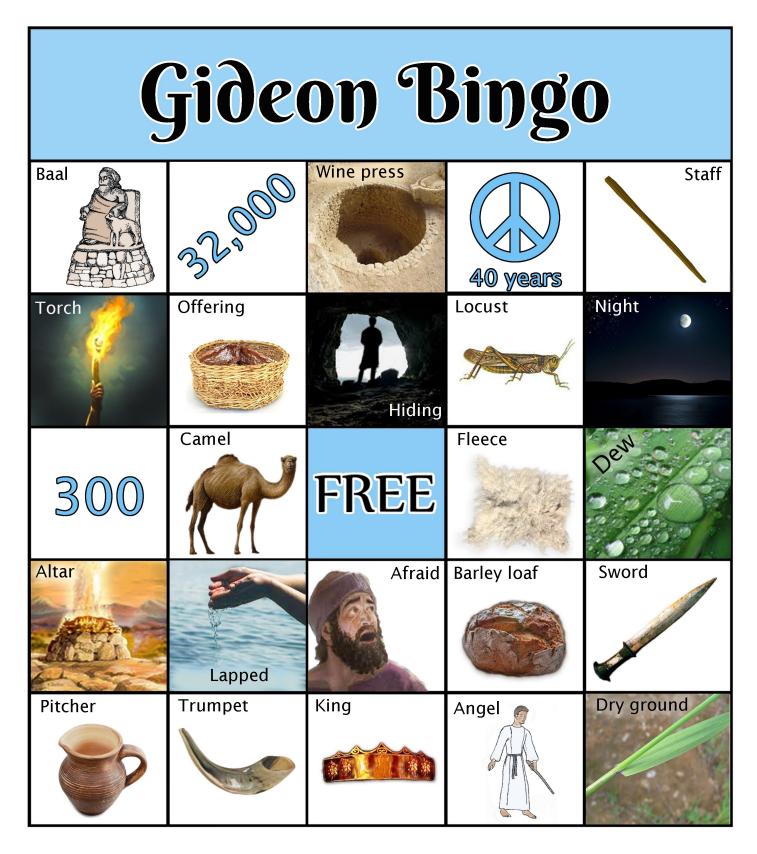
- 1. Give each student a Gideon Bingo Board. (The five boards are each arranged differently.) Let students look over the pictures before starting the game.
- 2. Give each student enough coins, poker chips, etc. to cover all squares as each question is called. Start by placing a marker on the center FREE square.



- 3. Read the statements with the missing words in the chart below, and let students figure out the word missing from the sentence. When students have identified the word, they can put a marker on the correct square. Chapter references are provided so students can find answers in the Word if needed. They may also discuss possible answers with the group.
- 4. The player who places five markers in a row—vertically, horizontally or diagonally—first, wins! Continue playing until all have completed their boards. If there is interest in replaying, mix things up by reading questions from the end to the beginning or reading every other question, etc.

	The Story of Gideon				
Locust	Midianites invaded Israel. There were as many as a plague of (locusts) Judges 6:5				
Camel	The Midianites' ate up all the food so the people were starving. (camels) Judges 6:5				
Hiding	The Midianites frightened people so they hid in (caves) Judges 6:2				
Wine press	Gideon hid in a (winepress) Judges 6:11				
Angel	An appeared and asked Gideon to save Israel. (angel) Judges 6:11				
Offering	Gideon asked the angel for a sign and the angel waited while he brought put an (offering) Judges 6:20				

The Story of Gideon				
Staff	The angel touched the offering with his and it caught fire. (staff) Judges 6:21			
Baal	The Lord asked Gideon to tear down the altar of (Baal) Judges 6:23			
Altar	Gideon built an to the Lord. (altar) Judges 6:26			
Fleece	Gideon asked the Lord for another sign that He would help Israel fight. The Lord gave the sign of the (fleece) Judges 6:37			
Den	The Lord made fall only on the fleece. (dew) Judges 6:39			
Dry ground	No dew fell on the (dry ground) Judges 6:39			
32,000	Gideon blew a trumpet and sent messengers to get help for fighting Midian men came. (32,000) Judges 7:3-6			
Afraid	22,000 men were and went home. (afraid) Judges 7:3			
Lapped	Gideon tested the men at the well of Harod. He chose the ones who the water. (lapped) Judges 7:5			
300	Only men were left. The Lord said by the men who have lapped I will save you. (300) Judges 7:6,7			
Night	That same, the Lord told Gideon and his servant to go to the Midianite camp. (night) Judges 7:9			
Earliey loar	Gideon heard an enemy talking about a dream he had in which a hit a tent and knocked it over. (barley loaf) Judges 7:13			
Torch	Gideon's men each took a (torch) Judges 7: 16			
Pitcher	They set the torches inside (pitchers) Judges 7:16			
Trumpet	Gideon and his men blew (trumpets/shofar) Judges 7:20			
Sword	They shouted the of the Lord and of Gideon. (sword) Judges 7:20			
King	The people wanted to make Gideon their but he refused. (king) Judges 8:22			
40 years	The land had for years. (peace, 40) Judges 8:28			



Gideon Bingo				
Fleece	Locust	Dry ground	Pitcher	Night
Afraid	Sword	Altar	King	Wine press
Trumpet	Dew	FREE	Staff	Angel
Offering	Baal	40 years	Torch	Hiding
300	32,000	Barley loaf	Lapped	Camel

Gideon Bingo				
40 years	Fleece	Trumpet	Lapped	300
Den	Baal	Sword	Afraid	Pitcher
Night	Dry ground	FREE	Hiding	Offering
Staff	Camel	Angel	Altar	King
Locust	Torch	Barley loaf	32,000	Wine press



Gideon Bingo				
Barley loaf	Camel	Trumpet	Den	300
Dry ground	Baal	Lapped	Staff	Fleece
Torch	Locust	FREE	Altar	Sword
Hiding	Wine press	Offering	Pitcher	32,000
Afraid	Night	Angel	King	40 years

### With God All Things Are Possible (Ages 11-14)

Gideon's tiny army confronted what seemed an impossible battle. Three hundred warriors faced an enemy force of thousands, perhaps even hundreds of thousands. Their enemies were "as the sand on the shore", or as locusts. But the Lord was with Gideon and promised He would bring victory.

This activity presents students with an "impossible" task—to



go *through* a sheet of paper. The key to this activity is *letting students struggle to find the answer on their own* without help, until they become frustrated and ready to give up. To see how this works, read through the description on page 70 or watch <u>www.youtube.com/watch?v=71bzxv0032s</u>.

- 1. It looked to Gideon as if his army was facing impossible odds. The Lord had reduced the fighting force to 300 as they faced enemies numbered in the thousands. Yet the Lord promised victory. So how would He do it?
- 2. We sometimes face situations that seem impossible. Can you think of a time when you struggled with an "impossible" task? How did things work out?
- 3. We're going to attempt an "impossible" task. (Give each student a piece of scrap paper.) Your task is to put your entire body through the piece of paper.
- 4. Have scissors available for students to use if they choose. *Do not give away the strategy*. Let students struggle to find a solution on their own. (If you have a student who has done this before, encourage them to hold off on giving the answer away until others have had time to think it through.)
- 5. When students are ready to give up, show them how they can do it, using the directions on the following page.
- 6. The Lord said that "nothing will be impossible" (Matthew 17:20). What do you think He meant by that?
- 7. The Lord also said, "with God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). What kinds of things are possible with the Lord?
- 8. Let students choose a copy of the quote "With God all things are possible" (pp. 71-73) to decorate for display at home.

#### Materials Needed for Each Student

scrap paper (8 ½" x 11" or A4 size), scissors, *Decorative Quote* pp. 19-21 (print enough to offer students a choice), colored pencils or markers *optional*: index cards instead of scrap paper

#### **Prepare in Advance**

Read over pp. 17-18 and decide whether to use paper or index cards. Try the experiment yourself to make sure you know how it works.

#### New Church Concept What Is Impossible

It is essentially human and therefore angelic to truth.... Believing and do not acknowledge the Lord's divine nature and who do not acknowledge that evils are sins. but it is possible for people two facts. The reason it is impossible for people who do not acknowledge the Lord's divine nature is that it is only the Lord who enables us to think and to intend.... See Divine Providence 321

### With God All Things Are Possible continued

#### **Index Card Tips**

For something that seems even more "impossible, do this activity with an index card. To make a hole large enough to step through the cuts must be close together. Hint: when using an index card, it will be easier if the first two end cuts are made first, and the card is then cut along the folded edge before cuts are made from the sides towards the center.

#### New Church Concept Right and Left

For love and wisdom to be a single whole in angels and in us, there are pairs throughout our bodies. There is a right side and a left side. All the right side parts have to do with the love that gives rise to wisdom, while all the left side parts have to do with the wisdom of that love. See Divine Love and Wisdom 127

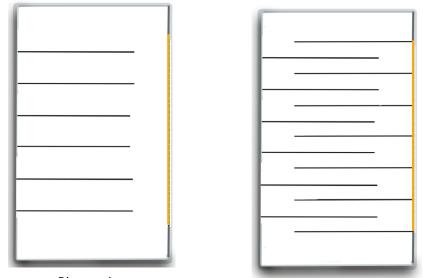


Diagram 1

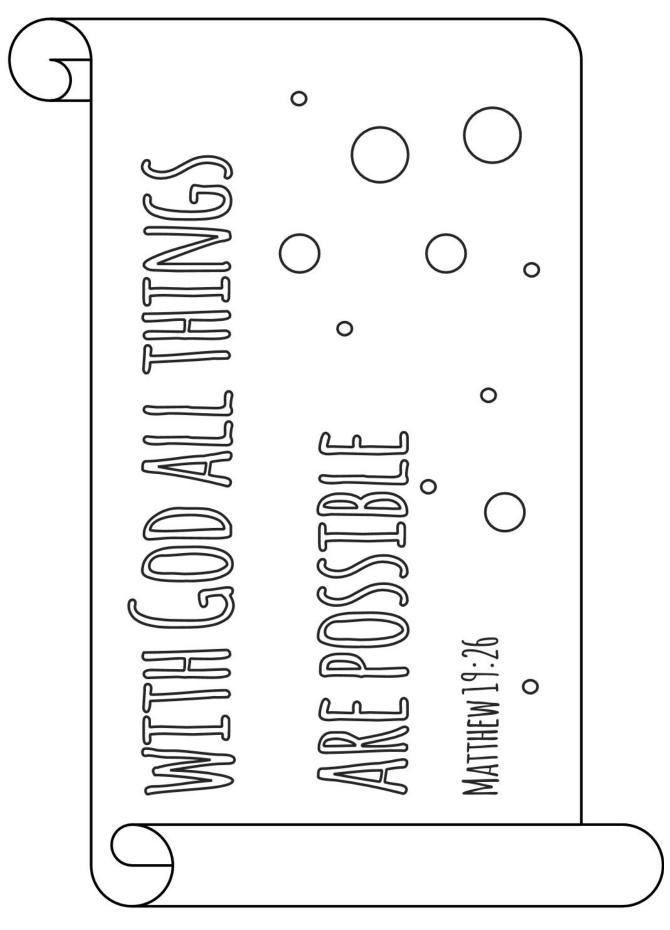
Diagram 2

- 1. Start by folding the paper in half along the long side.
- Using scissors, from the open edge of the paper make straight cuts approximately 1" (3cm) apart cutting towards the fold but leaving the paper uncut 1" from the fold (where the yellow line is). (See Diagram 1)
- 3. Turn the paper so the folded edge is towards you. Cut between the previous cuts, leaving 1" at the open edge of the paper. (See Diagram 2)
- 4. Now snip the paper on the middle of the fold on the yellow line between the end cuts. Beware! **DO NOT CUT the folds at the two ends**! If you do, you will not be able to go "through" the paper!
- 5. Once the folds are cut, open the paper out into a circle. It should be large enough to step through.

#### **New Church Concept: Hands**

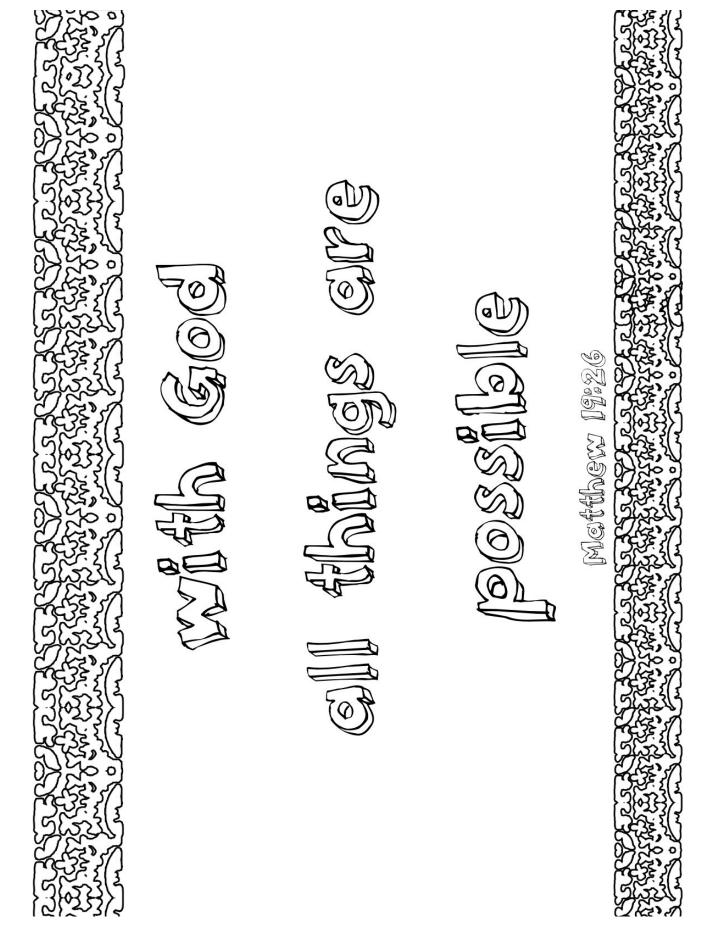
"Since the whole body directs its powers principally into the arms and hands, therefore arms and hands in the Word symbolize power, and the right hand superior power. Angels who are present with a person and in correspondence with all his constituents know merely from any action done through the hands what the person is like in regard to his intellect and will, and so in regard to his charity and faith, thus in regard to the inner life which is the life of his mind, and in regard to the outward life which results from that in the body." *Divine Love and Wisdom* 220

#### **Decorative Quote**





#### **Decorative Quote**

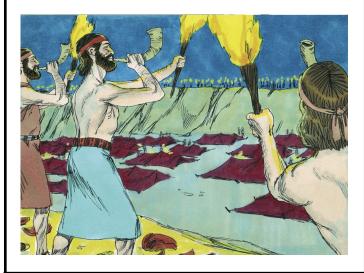




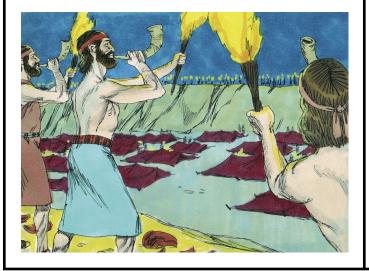
## **Recitation Cards**

Print a recitation card for each student. To learn the recitation, say each phrase aloud. Ask the students to repeat after you. End by joining the phrases together. Ask students to take the cards home to practice the recitation.

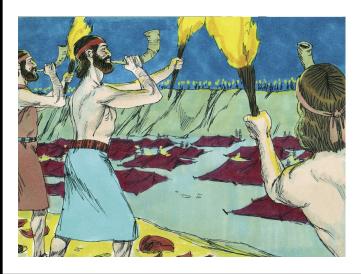
Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers... and they cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" (Judges 7:20)



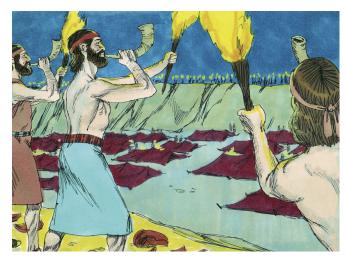
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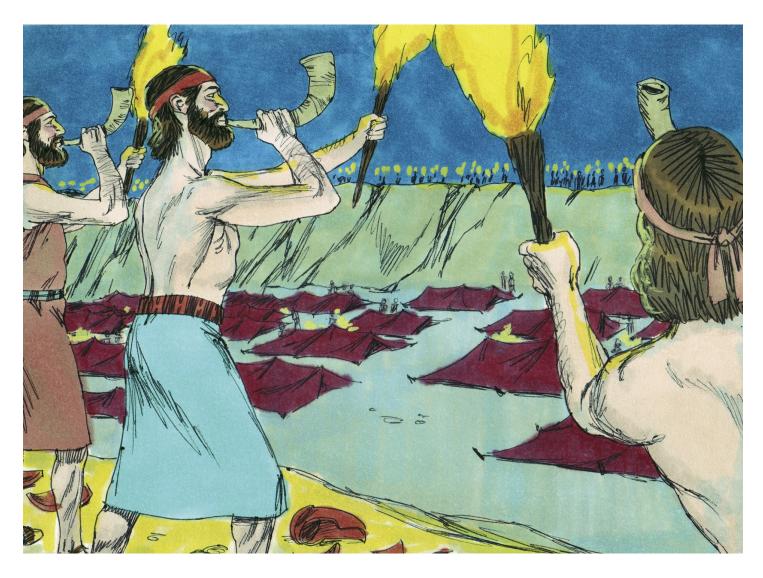


Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers... and they cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" (Judges 7:20)



## Closing

The power and light of the Lord's truth lights up our minds to protect us and destroy false ideas and selfish loves. When the Lord's Word rules in us, we can have peace and happiness.



Find additional Youth Series on newchurchvineyard.org or contact General Church Education at <u>GCED@newchurch.org</u> or 267-502-4949 or by mail at 1100 Cathedral Road, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009, USA.

