

Week 11 Family Letter

God Gives Gideon (and You) Confidence to Trust His Plans: Gideon Wins the Battle

(Judges 7)

God told Gideon to stop the enemy. Gideon had lots of people to help him. He had a big army. Was Gideon ready to fight the enemy? No!

God told Gideon he had too many people. Gideon sent some men home. Was Gideon ready to fight the enemy now? No!

God told Gideon he still had too many people. Gideon sent even more men home. Now, was Gideon ready to fight the enemy? Yes! Gideon only had a small army. They did not have swords and shields. They had trumpets and lights. They walked around the enemy army while they were sleeping. Then Gideon's army made lots of noise and woke up the enemy. The enemy army was confused and scared. They ran away. God won the fight! God helped Gideon know what to do. God helps us to know what to do. He gives us trust.

Bible Words

Not . . . by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord.

Zechariah 4:6

Dear Family,

Can you imagine going into battle completely outnumbered and armed with only a torch and a trumpet?

Let your child color the “weapons” that Gideon and his army used. Ask your child who won the battle. If he or she answers, “Gideon,” great! Your child remembered that God let a man named Gideon win. If the answer is “God,” even better, for God is the one in control.

God intentionally made Gideon's army smaller so that Gideon knew the battle belongs to the Lord. Gideon didn't think he could do what God asked him to, but God wanted Gideon to know that it was only through God's might that it would happen.

Consider what things your child can successfully help with. Perhaps your child doesn't think he or she can do the task. Encourage your child and give him or her opportunities to succeed at pouring milk from a small plastic container, pulling annuals out of the garden, setting/clearing the table, taking clothes to the laundry room, opening the mail or putting the mail in the mailbox, feeding a pet, dusting, or holding the hymnal during worship. Let your child recognize that just like Gideon, he or she is called to be God's helper. We can trust that God will be with your child and empower him or her to do God's work. Read the story on page 148 of *The Story Bible* together.

