

Bible Verse: Judges 6:16 (NIV) “The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites.”

Last week, our story was about Moses. God spoke to Moses from a burning bush, and helped Moses and his brother Aaron lead the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt.

Today’s story happens 200 years after Moses. Time after time, during these years, the Israelites would forget how important God was to them. Then God would call up a great leader to remind them. These leaders were known as Judges. There is a whole book in the Bible (called Judges) about them. Most of the Judges led the Israelites to win battles against tribes of enemies. One of these Judges was a woman named Deborah. Our story today is about another one of the Judges. His name is Gideon.

In the Book of Judges Chapter 6, we read that the people of Midian have invaded the land of the Israelites. Many of the Israelites have started to worship the wrong Gods.

But God speaks to a young man named Gideon. First, God sends an angel to tell Gideon, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” Now Gideon is not a warrior. He is not even a strong man. But Gideon listens for God.

God tells him, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites.”

So the Spirit of the Lord comes over Gideon, and he blows a trumpet and sends a message to the tribes of Israel to join together against the Midianites.

Thirty-two thousand Israelites follow Gideon and come together in one big army. There are so many that some of them start to think they can win without God’s help.

But God has a different plan.

God tells Gideon to keep only three hundred soldiers and to send the rest home. So Gideon’s army is now a small army depending on God.

First God sends a dream to the Midianites that the sword of Gideon will defeat them. Now the Midianites are already afraid, and it is a dark night.

Gideon gives each of his small group of soldiers a trumpet and a torch. They put their torches inside of jars to keep the flames hidden. They sneak close to the Midianite camp.

At Gideon’s signal, his tiny army show their torches and run toward the camp, with their torches, blowing their trumpets and yelling out “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon”.

The whole army of Midianites start to chase each other with their own swords and they scream and run away. The Israelites chase them out of the country.

The story of Gideon reminds us that following God makes us strong, and that with God’s direction, a small group can do great things.

Wonder Question: God showed Gideon an unexpected solution to winning the battle. Can you think of an unexpected solution to something that happened to you?

