

Gideon the Great

Judges 8:1-35

To teach that God graciously keeps his promises even when we don't always love him completely and we fail to do what is right.

Review

- Who did God use to rescue his people? [*Gideon (6:12)*]
- How big was their army? [*300 men (7:8)*]
- Who won the battle for them? [*The Lord God (7:22)*]

Game

- Talk about how some children **followed** what you **said** and others **followed** what you **did**.
- Why was it so hard for the children to do as you said when you were doing something different?
- Today's true story from the Bible is about a man named Gideon who said one thing about God, but acted very differently – he did things his own way!

Reccap

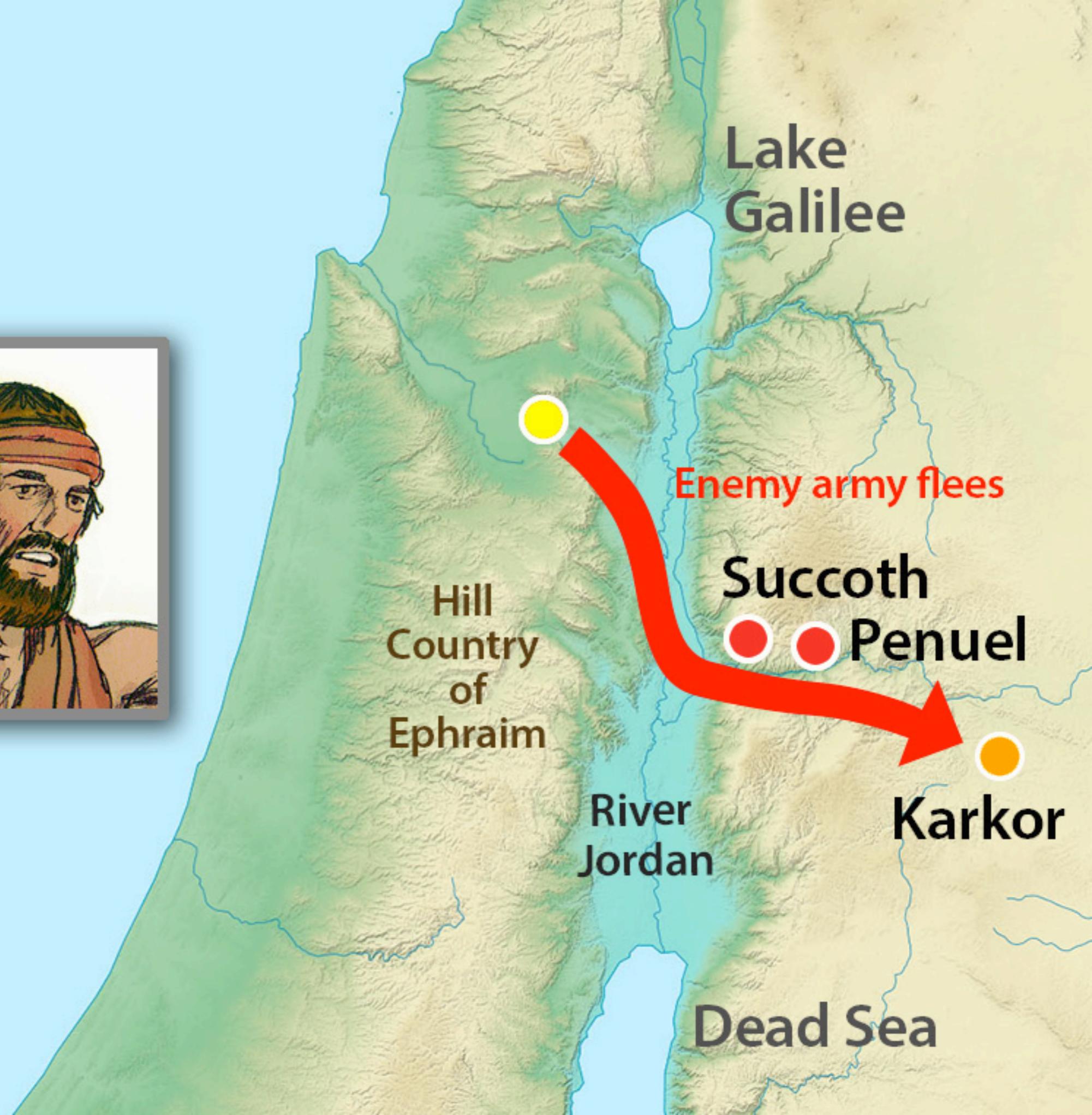
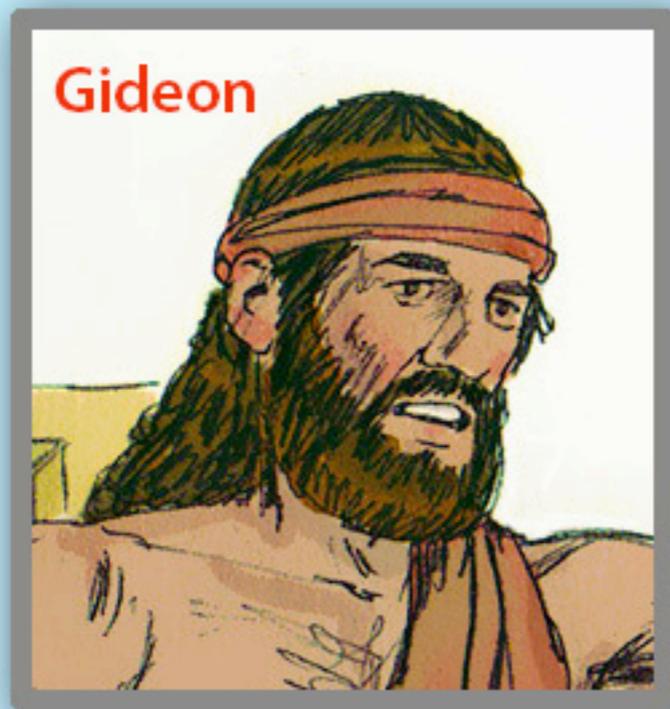
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Read

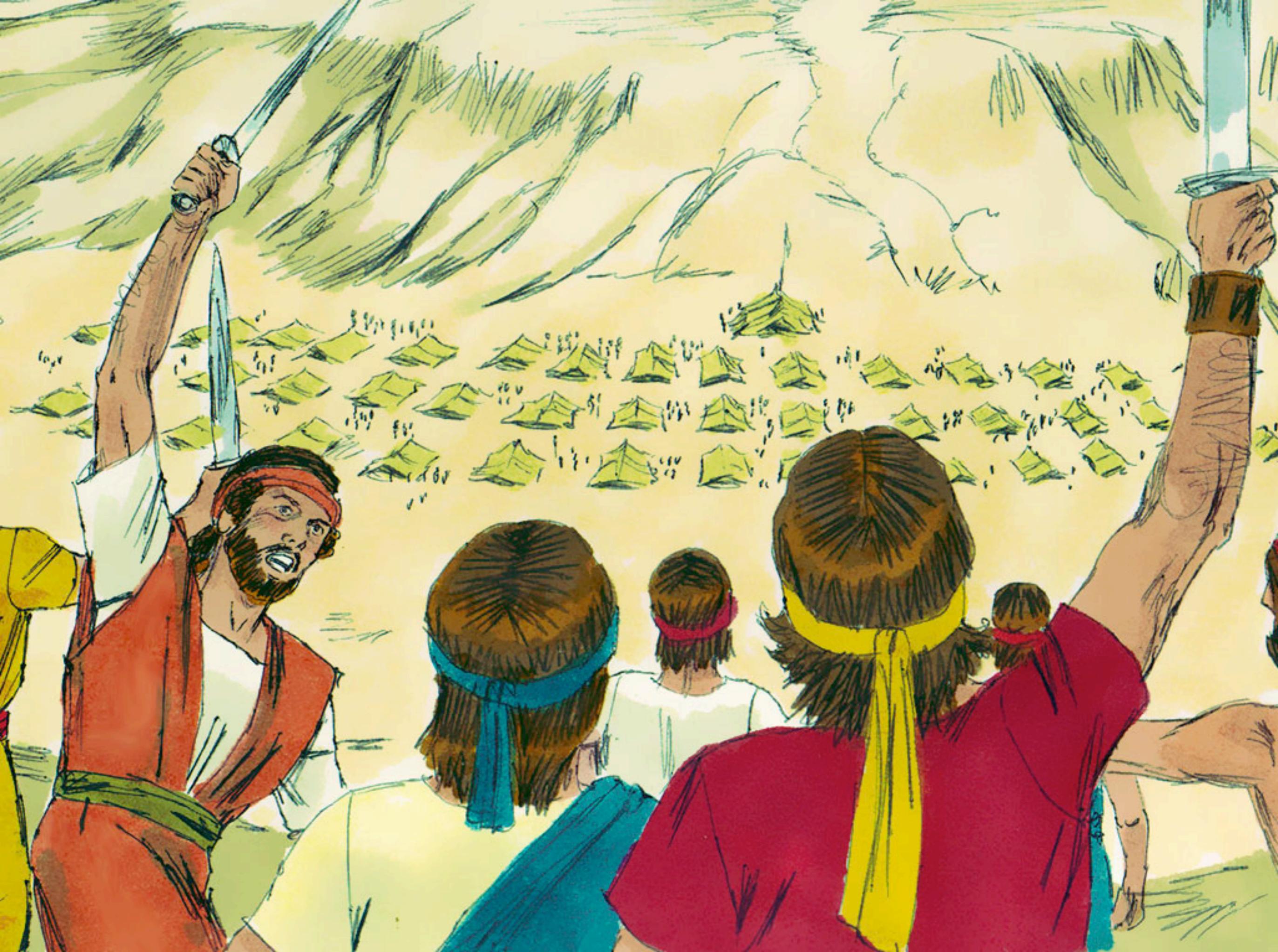


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THE JUDGES



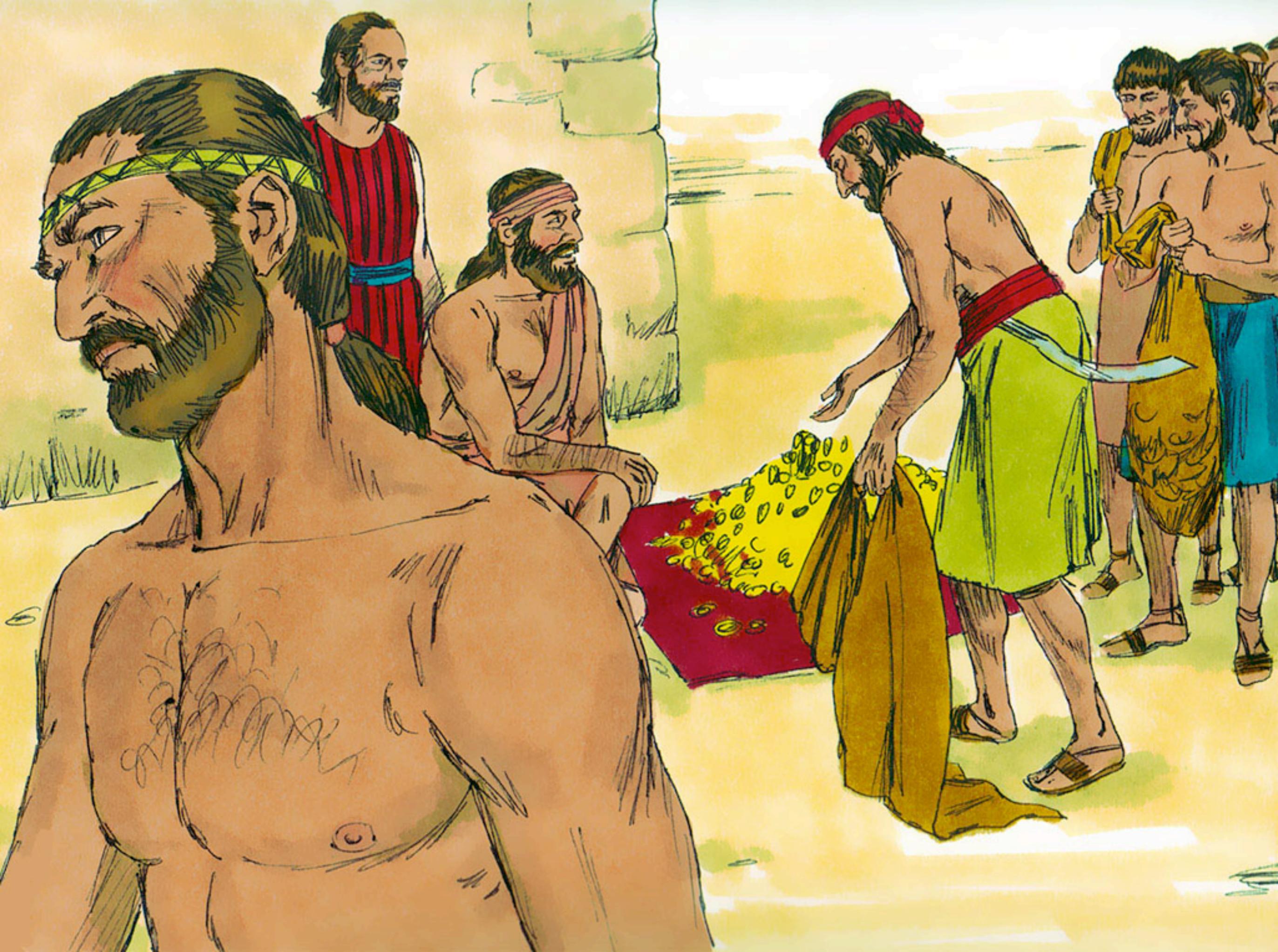
















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- 1 When the Midianites fled for their lives, Gideon and his 300 men gave chase. The men of Ephraim captured and executed the Midianite commanders Oreb and Zeeb but Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian, crossed the River Jordan with 15,000 warriors and camped at Karkor.



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- 2 By the time Gideon reached Succoth his men were hungry and exhausted. Gideon begged the town leaders, 'Please give my warriors food. I am chasing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian.'



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- 3 The officials of Succoth replied, 'Catch Zebah and Zalmunna first, and then we will feed your army.'

Gideon replied, 'When the Lord gives me victory I will return to punish you with thorns and briars.'

When he arrived in Peniel he again asked for food, but he got the same answer.

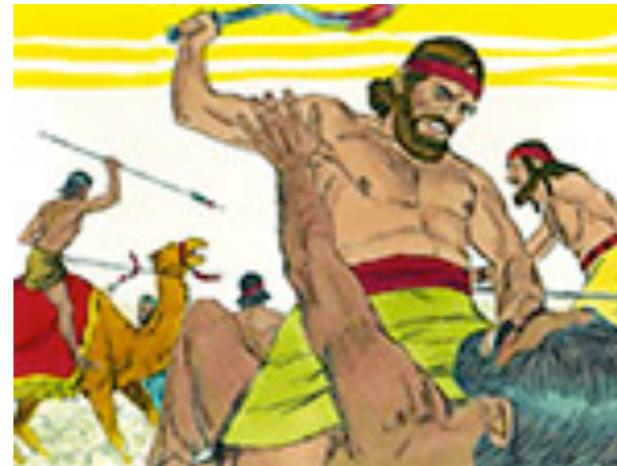
Gideon retorted, 'After I return in victory, I will tear down this tower.'



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- 4 Gideon circled around by a caravan route to take the Midianite army by surprise.



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- 5 Zebah and Zalmunna, the two Midianite kings, fled, but Gideon gave chase and captured all their warriors. When Gideon discovered Zebah and Zalmunna had killed his own brothers he executed them.



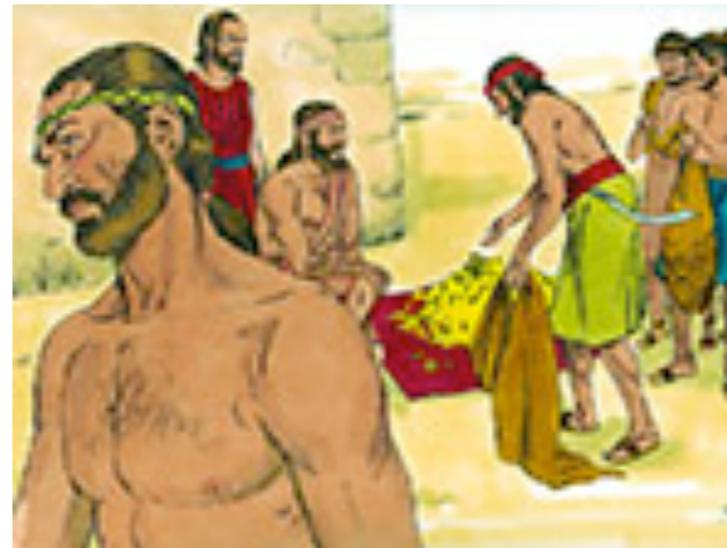
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- 6 Then, Gideon returned to Succoth and taught the 77 town leaders a lesson, punishing them with thorns and briers from the wilderness. He also tore down the tower of Peniel.



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- 7 The Israelites said to Gideon, 'Be our ruler! You have rescued us from Midian.' 'I will not rule over you, nor will my son,' Gideon replied, 'The Lord will rule over you!'



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- 8 Gideon then asked that each of them give him a golden earring plundered from the enemy troops. The weight of the gold earrings was 43lbs (20kg). Gideon also received golden chains and purple robes taken from the enemy.



- 9 Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in his home town of Ophrah. However the Israelites started worshipping the ephod and it became a snare to Gideon and his family.



- 10 During Gideon's lifetime, the land had peace for forty years. No sooner had Gideon died, however, than the Israelites started worshipping the idol Baal once more.



Quiz

1. Who did the Lord give the Israelites victory over? Midianites
2. What did Gideon and his men ask the people of Sukkoth for? Food
3. The people of Sukkoth said they would only give them food once they had caught the Midianite leader
briars
4. The people of Peniel gave the same response - what did Gideon say he would do to them? He would
5. Who was Gideon trusting in for this victory? Himself
6. What did Gideon do to Zebah and Zulmanna? He killed them when he found out they had killed his brother
7. What did the people of Israel ask of Gideon? To be their king
8. What did Gideon say about God? That he was their king
9. What did Gideon's actions say? He was acting like he was their King
10. How did Gideon's words and actions not match up? Took gold from the people, had many wives, named his sons after his wives
11. What strange request did Gideon make to the Israelites? He asked them to bring him all the gold that they had
12. What did Gideon do with all this gold? Made an ephod
13. What is an ephod? It is a breast plate that the priests used to wear
14. What did the Israelites do next? They started worshipping the ephod in place of God
15. How did God use Gideon despite his failings? He gave the Israelites peace
16. How many years did Israel have peace for during Gideon's rule? 40
17. What happened when Gideon died? They started worshipping the idol Baal
18. What is our memory verse? The Lord is near to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18
19. What is the judges cycle? The people did evil in the eyes of the Lord, God handed them over to their enemies
peace in the land while the judge lived
20. How can we sometimes be like Gideon? When we live our lives thinking more about our glory than God's

Peril peg game

1. Who did the Lord give the Israelites victory over? Midianites
2. What did Gideon and his men ask the people of Sukkoth for? Food
3. The people of Sukkoth said they would only give them food once they had caught the Midianite leaders, what was Gideon's response? He would return after their victory and punish them with thorns and briars
4. The people of Peniel gave the same response - what did Gideon say he would do to them? He would return after the victory and bash down their tower
5. Who was Gideon trusting in for this victory? Himself
6. What did Gideon do to Zebah and Zulmanna? He killed them when he found out they had killed his brother
7. What did the people of Israel ask of Gideon? To be their king
8. What did Gideon say about God? That he was their king
9. What did Gideon's actions say? He was acting like he was their King
10. How did Gideon's words and actions not match up? Took gold from the people, had many wives, named his son Abimelek, made an ephod

11. What strange request did Gideon make to the Israelites? He asked them to bring them all the gold that they had gotten from the Midianites
12. What did Gideon do with all this gold? Made an ephod
13. What is an ephod? It is a breast plate that the priests used to wear
14. What did the Israelites do next? They started worshipping the ephod in place of God
15. How did God use Gideon despite his failings? He gave the Israelites peace
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17. What happened when Gideon died? They started worshipping the idol Baal
18. What is our memory verse? The Lord is near to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18
19. What is the judges cycle? The people did evil in the eyes of the Lord, God handed them over to their enemies, the people cried out to God to save them, God raised up a judge to save them, there was peace in the land while the judge lived
20. How can we sometimes be like Gideon? When we live our lives thinking more about our glory than God's (you can ask your kids to give specific examples of this)

Discuss

- <https://youtu.be/Gal2Gj7i2us>

The challenge

Even if you have sent your challenges through... keep practicing, there's a twist

1. <https://youtu.be/q3l0BmstG6Q>

2. <https://youtu.be/Jvg038cietM>

Pray

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for the bible that guides and directs our lives. Thank you for your Spirit that helps us to understand what we read and helps us to put it into practice in our lives.

We want to say sorry for the many times we like Gideon choose the things of this world above You. We are sorry for thinking that we can live without you as our King and that we too often chase after things that will never last.

Please would you help us to live for you, to be faithful in following You as our King and would remain near to us .

Thank you that even though we get it wrong so often, that you forgive us when we repent.

Help us we pray to live this week for Your Glory.

Amen

Did you know?

- <https://youtu.be/8FuuxXbJxaE>

Sing

Links into our lesson



<https://youtu.be/DnD6YP3Dyho>

Don't forget this... you can find it on the app store and add it to your mom or dads phone so you can learn it



<https://youtu.be/iu6h33a0Ino>