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2nd-4th GRADES

READ this week's story: [The Story Bible page 150](#)

Our lesson about Gideon this week shows that our almighty God can help us through any kind of problem. Even if it seems to be a BIG problem!

Because the Israelites had turned from God, he allowed the Midianites to attack and rule over the Israelites. This was how God disciplined his people. When the Israelites repented and asked God for help, he helped them. Gideon was chosen by God to lead the people as God helped to rescue them from the Midianites. When Gideon asked for men to help fight against the Midianites, 32,000 men said they would fight. Gideon had collected a strong army... however, with God's help they did not need that many men. God did not want the soldiers to believe that it was their strength and numbers that allowed them to defeat the Midianites. God was going to help them in His way. 22,000 men left the army when Gideon told them that if they were afraid that they could leave. This still left Gideon with a strong army of 10,000 men. God knew that Gideon did not need 10,000 men to fight, as God had a plan, so he allowed Gideon to reduce his army again. This time Gideon chose his army based on the way the soldiers drank water. That seems like an odd way to choose soldiers doesn't it? That is because God knew his plan did not rely on the strength of men, but on God's almighty power!

Gideon ended up with only 300 soldiers. And the plan given to him by God was that instead of weapons, they would get trumpets, and torches and clay jars. Confident in God's promise to protect them, these 300 soldiers surrounded the Midianite camp, and when Gideon blew his trumpet, all the others blew theirs, smashed the clay jars to expose their torches and shouted in a very loud voice "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" That was all the Israelite soldiers had to do, God took care of the rest! God caused the Midianite army to become confused and panicked. In their confusion, they killed many of their own soldiers and many fled. So, it is easy to see that God won this victory for the Israelites... he helped them with their troubles and they were now free from the Midianites.

God helps us too! There is no trouble too big that God can't help us with! In fact, he took care of our biggest trouble (SIN) when he died on the cross to defeat Satan, take away our sins and give us eternal life in heaven with him. If he can help us with that BIG trouble, we can be confident he can help us with ANY troubles that may come into our lives. **Psalm 56:11a** reminds us that we can trust in God for help in all our needs and troubles: "**In God I trust; I will not be afraid**". Let's continue to trust in God in any trouble and for any need.

Please do the worksheet "Noteworthy Numbers". The answer key will be below.

Happy New Year to you. May God bless you throughout this new year and keep you protected in his love!

Answer Key: **Part One:** b, d, a, e c, c

Part Two: Answers will vary for number 2, the answers for the other sentences should be similar to the following: 1. sin, sending Jesus to die for me, 3. he takes me to heaven

Want to share your artwork with us?

Email a picture of your Sunday School craft to office@gsholmen.org

*We will be showing pictures sent to us on the Church Screens during announcements