

Memory Verse:

Two- and three-year-old verse: Judges 2:12: They disobeyed the Lord. . .and worshipped idols.

Four- and five-year-old verse: Judges 2:12: They forsook the Lord. . .They worshipped various gods of the peoples around them.

Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:

1. **Let's say the different parts of the sin cycle that the Israelites got into when they disobeyed God.** (*Sin--hold your fist straight up in the air; Punished--slap your hand; Repent--raise your hands in a prayer position; Rescue--bring down your arm like a gavel.*)
2. **Did God send Judge Gideon to rescue the Israelites from the Midianites whose camels ate all the food?** (*Yes.*)
3. **Did the Israelites blow trumpets and hold torch fires high in the air?** (*Yes. Gideon and his men blew trumpets, held torches, and shouted. The confused Midianites fought each other and ran away.*)
4. **Did God rescue the Israelites?** (*Yes. God rescued the Israelites because they had repented and wanted to obey Him.*)

Aim Questions for 4's, 5's & K:

1. **Let's say the different parts of the sin cycle that the Israelites got into when they disobeyed God.** (*Sin--hold your fist straight up in the air; Punished--slap your hand; Repent--raise your hands in a prayer position; Rescue--bring down your arm like a gavel.*)
2. **What was the name of the judge God sent to rescue the Israelites from the Midianites whose camels ate all the food?** (*Gideon.*)
3. **How many men lapped water from their hands and were chosen by God to fight?** (*Three hundred brave men trusted God to win the battle against 135,000 Midianite enemies.*)
4. **What weapons did Gideon use to scare the sleeping Midianites?** (*Gideon and his men blew trumpets, held torches, and shouted. The confused Midianites fought each other and tried to run away.*)
5. **Why did God use so few Israelites to fight so many Midianites?** (*God wanted everyone to know that He had rescued the Israelites because they had repented and wanted to obey Him.*)

Key for symbols:

This box symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow down the pace for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.

② This symbol represents ideas that are best used for two- and three-year-olds.

④ This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

Background Information for Teachers

Sin Cycles 4: Gideon
Synopsis

Let's begin today's Bible lesson by reviewing the judges we've looked at already. Let's review the hand motions that go along with each judge, too.

1. Who was the 1st judge? (Othniel - 3:9)
2. Who was the 2nd judge? (Ehud - 3:15)
3. Who was the 3rd judge? (Shamgar - 3:31)

(Background Information, continued)

4. Who was the only woman judge? (Deborah - 4:4)
5. What are the 5 stages of the "sin cycle"? (rebellion, regret, repentance, restoration, and rest)

Today, we're going to look at another judge and another cycle of sin! After Deborah died, the Israelites once again did evil in the eyes of the Lord and rebelled against Him (6:1). The nation entered a 7-year period of regret as God allowed the Midianites to steal their crops and animals. Just like before, when the Israelites were in trouble, they called out to God for help and repented of their evil. God then sent Gideon as a judge to bring restoration to the people. Gideon's story is very interesting because of how God taught Gideon to trust Him.

God sent the Angel of the Lord to call Gideon to be a judge. Gideon lived in a town called Ophrah and his family belonged to the tribe of Manasseh. Gideon's family was the weakest in the tribe and Gideon was the youngest member of his family. By calling someone who was the youngest in a family that was the weakest, God set the stage for what He was about to do. In the process, the Israelites were to learn a valuable lesson about God's power and their trust in Him.

When Gideon heard what God wanted him to do, he hesitated and asked if the Angel would give him a sign. The sign for Gideon was that when he put meat and bread out on a rock for the Angel, the Angel touched them with the tip of His staff and the meat and bread burst into flame. Gideon then realized that this wasn't any ordinary angel, but God Himself. As a result, Gideon worshipped the Lord and destroyed the altars to the foreign idols. Gideon's trust was growing.

Even though the Angel had said to him, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior," Gideon wasn't sure of his leadership. So he asked for another sign. This time, Gideon offered the idea for the sign. He would put out a sheep wool fleece in the morning, and he asked that it would be soaking wet while the ground around it remained dry. Sure enough, the next morning, the wool fleece was soaked while the ground was dry. He squeezed a bowlful of water from the fleece!

Gideon was like Moses in that he needed another sign! This time, Gideon asked that the opposite happen: the ground to be wet while the fleece to remain dry. Sure enough, the next day, Gideon found that the ground was wet and the fleece was dry. God performed another miracle as a sign for Gideon's faith. Gideon blew a trumpet and called several tribes together to go up against the Midianites.

Gideon had rallied 32,000 men from four tribes to Mt. Gilead. The armies of the Midianites and the Amalekites totaled over 135,000 as they camped in the valley of Jezreel. But God was not through testing the faith of His people. God knew that if they beat the Midianites with this size of an army, they would boast in themselves and become proud. God wanted the number of men reduced. So the first test was to ask those who were fearful to return home. Out of the 32,000 men, 22,000 left, leaving only 10,000. Still, this was too many people.

The second test involved taking the 10,000 men down to the Jordan River and asking them to take a drink. Those who kneeled down with their mouths to get a drink would go home, but those who scooped up the water to their mouths with their hands, would remain and fight. Guess how many scooped up the water? Only 300 men remained with Gideon out of the original 32,000! Despite the overwhelming odds of 300 Israelites fighting against 135,000 Midianites and Amalekites, Gideon obeyed and did what the Lord asked him to do!

Gideon was still afraid of what might happen. As he looked down from Mt. Gilead and saw the thousands of Midianites and Amalekites in the valley below like a swarm of locusts, his heart grew weary. God wanted Gideon's heart to be encouraged, so He told him, "If you are afraid, go down to the camp and listen to what the enemies are saying." That night, Gideon and his servant sneaked down and listened to the Midianites talking amongst themselves. One of them said, "God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands." After Gideon heard this, his heart was encouraged and he drew up a battle plan for the attack.

Gideon divided the 300 men into 3 companies. Each man was to carry a trumpet, an empty jar, and a torch. When Gideon's company reached the edge of the valley, they would blow their trumpets, smash their jars, and raise their torches while shouting, "For the Lord and for Gideon!" The other two companies were to do the same. The timing of the attack was scheduled for 10:00 p.m. when the guards below would be changing their shifts.

Gideon brought his company of 100 men to the edge of the valley, and when they were all in the right place, blew his trumpet. He then smashed the jar and raised the torch. Like dominoes, each of the other men did the same. When the Midianites and Amalekites saw the valley where they camped surrounded, they became terrified and started fighting and killing each other! The noise of the trumpets, the shouts, and the torches all caught them off guard and represented their death. In their minds, each of the torches represented 5,000 soldiers. With 300 torches, that would mean an army of about 1.5 million men! It's no wonder that they fled in fear.

Those that did flee, Gideon and his men chased down. It took several days to finally catch the Midianite leaders, Oreb and Zeeb. The men were exhausted but went home as heroes. When the rest of the nation had heard what God did through Gideon and his 300 men, they came to him and asked that he rule over them. Gideon replied, "I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The Lord will rule over you" (8:23). By placing his trust in the Lord, God used this young man as a great leader for Israel.

Gideon did make a mistake, however. He took a little reward for himself and asked the people to give him an earring of gold. Each man was happy to give an earring and when it was all totaled, the gold rings added up to 43 pounds of gold. Gideon took the gold and made a gold ephod like the Israelite priests wore. Unfortunately, the Israelites began to worship it. They didn't understand that they should have worshipped the Lord who created everything. After Gideon died, the nation went right back into another "sin cycle."

Application: Trust in the Power of God

In the story of Gideon, we've seen that God does not want to use proud people. Why do you think this is? The reason is because God desires to get all the glory for Himself. This is why He shrunk the Israelite army from 32,000 down to 300. There could be no way that these 300 men could boast about their victory over the huge armies of Midian and Amalek. God desires that we trust in His power and not our own.

When we place our trust in God and His plan for our lives, there will always be great victory. Whenever we try to go about our own way, there will always be defeat. We need to trust in Him because He is all-powerful and can do whatever He pleases. No matter how hard we try to go against His plan, we will never succeed. Let's pray that God would help us to trust in Him all the time!

Hook:

- Wall Map Review:** Use the large butcher paper map of Israel from last week. Remind the children about the Asherah poles throughout the different sections of the land that people used for worship. Talk about the idol named Baal that the Israelites were worshipping. Continue saying the names of the Israelite family groups as you talk about the different sections. Remind the children that because the Israelites had not fully obeyed God and gotten rid of the Canaanites and their idols, they got into a sin cycle. Sing songs from last week.
- "Hiding in Caves" Center:** Cover one or two card tables with blankets or sheets that the children can hide under. In today's Bible Adventure, we'll learn that the Israelites hid in caves in the mountains because they were afraid when the Midianites came to steal their food. While the children are in the "caves," have them listen for camels' hooves and munching noises.
- Sin Cycle Hopscotch Center:** Make a large sin cycle drawing (JDG01ECGF15) on paper and place it on the floor. Have a child step on the "sin" section first and say "sin." Have him jump or hop (depending on age level) to the next section which says "punished" without touching any of the spoke lines with his feet. Ask the child where he should jump with the least chance of touching a line. Continue around the cycle by jumping or hopping and say the words out loud to familiarize the children with the terminology. A fifth section could have "Gideon the Judge" on it for today's lesson. "Remember that we learned the Israelites would forget about the One True God and God would have

to punish them. The Israelites would be sorry and ask for forgiveness. God would then send a judge to rescue them. In today's Bible Adventure, the judge God sent was named Gideon."

Cereal Separating Activity: In a large bowl or bag, measure out 4 1/2 cups of fruitloops and 1 tablespoon of Cheerios. Ask children to separate out the yellow cereals, then the red ones and then separate the Cheerios. The 4 1/2 cups represents the number of Midianites and the tablespoon of Cheerios would be the proportionate number of Israelites. Show the children the Cheerios and this represents the number of Israelites that God gave Gideon to take all the "fruitloop" foreigners or Midianites! Add different colored beans to the mix for variety.

Bean Bag Sin Cycle Review: Place a large sin cycle on a piece of butcher paper on the floor. Children can stand behind a masking tape line and toss a bean bag on a section of the cycle. They get to identify the part of the cycle they landed on. If they miss the cycle, they can say the memory verse together with the other children.

Midianite and Israelite Mural: Place a large piece of butcher paper on two walls opposite each other. Using magazine pictures, let children tear or cut out the people pictures and glue them on the wall. Remember the proportion of Midianites to Israelites was 73-1 so be sure to include many more Midianites! We are going to hear how God helped Gideon win against all these Midianites with his small army of 300 men.

Israel Harvest Role Play: Ask the children to imitate the teacher's actions as he tells the story. "The Israelites had worked hard, very hard. (*Pretend to turn the soil with a shovel. Wipe sweat from your forehead.*) They dug in the hard soil in the hot sun. The Israelites planted the crops they needed. (*Scatter seed with your hand.*) They put wheat seeds, corn seeds, and barley seeds in the ground. They needed these crops for food. With plenty of sunshine (*make a large circle with your arms*) and good rain (*sprinkle rain from the sky*), the seeds grew to be big plants (*simulate a plant growing tall*) and looked ripe to cut and use for food. About the time the crops were getting ready for harvest, hoofs pounding in the dirt could be heard in the distance. (*Pat your hands together, then to your knees to sound like hooves.*) Hooves and more hooves. The Israelites heard hooves running fast (*put your hand behind your ear*) but all they could see (*put one hand above your eyes as you look to the distance*) were clouds of dust that billowed up in the bright blue sky. The Israelites squinted their eyes in the sun to try and see what was happening. Then off in the distance as far as they could see was what looked like men riding on camels. (*More hoof sounds.*) Thousands of camels were coming toward them. The camels came closer and closer and the hooves were louder and louder. The Israelites kept their eyes watching to see what was happening. The enemy! (*Run in place and crouch down as though hiding in caves.*) Chomp! Chomp! Chomp! The camels were eating all the grain. Oh, no! All the food was gone! (*Pat your stomach and make a little growling noise.*) What would the Israelites do? How would they feed their hungry children? (*Fold your hands in prayer.*) "Please, help us, God. Please rescue us. We're sorry we disobeyed You. Please forgive us."

② **Small Animal Center:** Provide as many small animals for the children as you can (plastic or stuffed). Talk about how the Israelite people would have all of their food eaten by the Midianites and their animals. Encourage the children to have the animals eat everything within reach. There was nothing for the Israelites to eat after the Midianites and their animals left.

② **Camel Rides: (JDG03ECGF7)** (to be closely supervised) Show the JDG03ECGF7 picture and talk about camels. Place two chairs together back to back. Place a bed pillow over the top of the backs to serve as a saddle. Tie a rope to a third chair to make the reins. The leader helps each child to step up on one of the chairs, straddle the backs, and take the reins. Talk about how high one has to sit to ride on the back of a camel. In today's Bible Adventure, lots of mean Midianites rode their camels onto Israelite land.

④ **Feeling Center:** In separate paper lunch bags, place different textures for the children to feel and try to identify. Include a piece of wool fleece, wheat kernels, sand, rocks, dirt, yarn, sand paper, burlap, soft knit, cheerios, a plastic grasshopper, a stuffed toy animal, a wet cotton ball, and a dry cotton ball, etc. Some of these things will be included in the Bible Adventure today.

④ **Camel Stencils: (JDG03ECGF7)** Copy several GF7 camel patterns onto cardboard and cut them out. The children can trace around these stencils and make a sheet of paper with several camels on

it. Draw stems and leaves and glue cheerios on for the grain that was eaten by the camels. Tell the children to listen carefully to the Bible Adventure today. They will hear about some camels that ate all the crops and didn't leave any for the people.

- ④ **What Is in the Adventure Today?** On a tray, place several items that will be heard about in the Bible Adventure today. Let the children look at the tray for a while in the center of their circle on the floor. Cover the tray with a towel and see how many of the items the children can remember. Include a picture of a sword, torch, clay pot, wheat kernels, a piece of wood for idols, wool fleece, a toy camel, a trumpet, a jar of water, a match book, and a picture of the night sky.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

- Color and mount the **JDG03ECGF1**, **JDG03ECGF2**, **JDG03ECGF3**, **JDG03ECGF4**, **JDG03ECGF5**, and **JDG03ECGF6** pictures on construction paper. Show them as you tell the Bible Adventure. Save the pictures and use them for review throughout the four Judges lessons.
- Put a marker in your Bible and let a child come up and open your Bible to the book of Judges. The book of Judges is in the Old Testament (the first half of the Bible). Tell the children you love reading the Bible because it is God's Word and every word is true. Hug the Bible to your chest.
- Bring a large scythe-like tool and show the children how the Israelites harvested their grain. Talk about how Gideon was separating the grain from the chaff in the winepress because he was hiding from the Midianites.
- Put a clay pot over a flashlight. Darken the room. When you blow a trumpet (a kazoo, a real trumpet, or a trumpet sound from your mouth), take the pot off the flashlight and shine the light into the eyes of the children.
- Tell the story from the first person of Gideon. Have the Gideon teacher enter the story circle after every one is situated and a co-leader says, "Everyone stand." After the Gideon teacher sits, the co-leader announces, "Everyone may be seated." Explain that these actions show respect for a judge.
- Story Presentation:** In one clear glass jar, place five white pinto beans. In another jar place about three hundred and fifty red kidney beans. Explain to the children that this is what the enemy looked like to Gideon and his three hundred men.

Bible Adventure for 2's & 3's-

Do you remember the name of the Bible book we are learning from? Judges is in the Old Testament. *(Have the children say "Judges" as they bring down one of their arms like a gavel.)* *(Show the review JDG01ECGF5 picture.)* The Israelites worshipped idols and had to be punished. The Israelites were in the sin cycle.

(Show the JDG03ECGF1 picture.) God used the mean Midianites to punish the Israelites. Each year at harvest time, thousands of Midianites rode in to Israel on big camels. There were so many Midianites on camels that they covered the fields like grasshoppers. The Israelites hid in caves in the mountains because they were afraid.

The camels ate all the crops! There was no food left. How would they feed their families?

The Israelites were sorry they had worshipped idols. *(Raise your hands in a prayer position.)* They repented and cried to the Lord for help.

(Show the JDG03ECGF2 picture.) God chose a judge named Gideon to rescue the Israelites. *(Have the children say "Gideon.")* God sent an angel to Gideon. The angel said, "I am sending you to rescue the Israelites. I will be with you and will help you. "

(Turn off the lights.) It was night time and dark when Gideon gathered his men and gave them good instructions so that they would know exactly what to do. Gideon gave each man a trumpet and an empty jar. Hiding inside the empty jar was a torch of fire. Gideon whispered, "Watch me! Do exactly as I do. I will blow my trumpet, then you will blow your trumpets and give a loud shout."

(Show the JDG03ECGF6 picture.) Gideon and his men tiptoed quietly and surrounded the sleeping Midianites. Gideon held up his torch, blew his trumpet, and gave a big shout. The Israelites all held up

their torches, blew their trumpets, and gave a big shout. The trumpets were very loud in the quietness of the night. The Midianites were scared. They started running around and yelling. Some of them tried to run away, but Gideon and his men chased and caught them.

God rescued the Israelites, and they wanted Gideon to be their ruler, their leader. They said, "Rule over us because you have rescued us from the Midianite enemy." Gideon said, "No, I will not rule over you. The Lord will rule over you." Gideon knew that the Lord had rescued the Israelites from the Midianites. He would take care of His people as long as they obeyed Him.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for Gideon who obeyed You even when he was afraid. You rescued the Israelites from trouble, and You will help me obey, too. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Adventure for 4's, 5's & K-

Do you remember the name of the Bible book we are learning from? Judges is in the Old Testament. *(Have the children say "Judges" as they bring down one of their arms like a gavel.)*

(Show the review JDG01ECGF5 picture.) The Israelites worshipped idols and had to be punished. The Israelites were in the sin cycle again.

(Show the JDG03ECGF1 picture.) God used Midianite men to punish the Israelites. Each year at harvest time, thousands of Midianite men rode in to Israel on big camels. There were so many Midianites on camels that they covered the fields like grasshoppers. The Israelites hid in caves in the mountains because they were afraid.

The camels started eating the crops. They ate and ate until the crops were all gone! When the Midianites turned around to leave Israel, there was nothing left. There was no food, no crops, and no animals. The Israelites were very sad and afraid. How would they feed their families? How could they stay alive?

The Israelites were in trouble, and they were sorry they had worshipped idols. They repented and cried to the Lord for help.

(Show the JDG03ECGF2 picture.) God chose a judge named Gideon to rescue the Israelites. Gideon was working under a tree when God sent an angel to him. The angel said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior. I am sending you to save Israel." Gideon didn't feel like a mighty warrior. He said, "I am the youngest in my family, and my family is the weakest of all the families in Israel. How can I save my people?" The Lord said, "I will be with you and will help you."

(Show the JDG03ECGF3 picture.) The first thing that the Lord asked Gideon to do was a scary job. God asked Gideon to tear down his father's altar to Baal and the Asherah pole beside it. Gideon obeyed, got ten men to help him, and went out at night to tear down the idols. When the neighbors woke up in the morning and saw what Gideon had done, they were furious and wanted to kill him. God protected Gideon and kept the people from hurting him.

The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet. As the Israelites heard the trumpet, they gathered around Gideon to fight against the Midianite enemy.

(Show the JDG03ECGF4 picture.) Even though the Lord promised Gideon that He would be with him, Gideon was afraid. He said to God, "Please show me if You will really use me to save Israel. I will place a piece of wool (sheep skin) on the floor. In the morning, if the wool is wet and all the ground around it is dry, I will know that You truly are my helper." Gideon couldn't wait to get out of bed the next morning and go look at the wool. He knelt down to feel it. What do you think happened? The fleece was soaking wet but the ground was dry. Gideon squeezed a whole bowl full of water out of the fleece.

Gideon said, "Don't be angry with me, Lord. Please show me one more time. This time, please make the wool dry and the ground around it wet." When Gideon woke up the next morning, what did he see? He saw dew, little drops of water, all over the ground, but the wool fleece was dry. God showed Gideon His power, and Gideon was ready to trust God to rescue the Israelites.

But first, God said to Gideon, "You have too many men. Send home any soldier who is afraid." What? Too many men! It seemed to Gideon as though he didn't have enough men. It was already four against one.

God wanted all the Israelites to know that He was the One who would win the battle for them. He didn't want people to brag and say that they had beaten the Midianites with their own power. Gideon listened carefully to God and obeyed. Twenty-two thousand men went home. Now there were thirteen times as many enemies as there were Israelites. This really seemed unfair. Sometimes things seem unfair to us, but God's way is always best. It is always right to listen to God in the Bible and do what He says.

(Show the JDG03ECGF5 picture.) God said to Gideon, "There are still too many men." What? Too many men? God said, "Take the men down to the Jordan River. The men who drink the water from the river by scooping water into their hands and lapping it like a dog will go with you to fight. The men who

kneel down to get their drinks will go home." Only three hundred men lapped the water with their hands to their mouths. Gideon obeyed and sent the others home. Now there were only three hundred Israelites against 135,000 Midianites. Wow! How could they ever win? Gideon obeyed God because He trusted God to do the right thing.

(Turn off the lights.) It was night time and darkness covered the land. Gideon gathered his men and gave them good instructions so that they would know exactly what to do. He gave each of them a trumpet and an empty jar. Hiding inside the empty jar was a torch of fire. Gideon whispered, "Watch me! Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the Midianite camp, do exactly as I do. I will blow my trumpet, then you will blow your trumpets and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon.'"

(Show the JDG03ECGF6 picture.) The Israelites climbed down the mountain into the valley in the dark. They tried to be very quiet and not warn the enemy that they were coming. With Israelite men all around the sleeping Midianites, Gideon smashed his jar, held up his torch, and blew his trumpet. The Israelites all did the same, just as they were instructed. It was quite a sight. The night sky was bright with flaming torches. The trumpets were very loud in the quietness of the night. The Midianites were shaken out of their sleep. They were scared to death. They started running around, yelling. They were so confused that they began killing each other with their own swords. Some of them tried to escape by running away. Gideon and his men chased them. They had to run very fast and hard for two days to catch the two Midianite leaders, but none of the enemy got away.

Gideon and his men returned home, exhausted, hungry, and tired, but God had rescued them and was giving them rest from the Midianite enemies. As the Israelites gathered around Gideon, talking about the victory, they decided they wanted Gideon to be their ruler, their leader. They said, "Rule over us because you have rescued us from the Midianite enemy." Gideon said, "No, I will not rule over you. The Lord will rule over you." Gideon knew that it was the Lord who had given them the victory. Gideon knew that God would take care of His people if they would obey Him.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for Gideon who obeyed and trusted You even when he was afraid. You rescued the Israelites from trouble, and You will help me, too, when I cry to You for help. Help me be like Gideon and obey You. In Jesus' name, amen.



Look:

- Aim Questions:** Bring a real trumpet or toy instrument to class and blow it each time a new question is being asked. (Warn the children each time the instrument is blown.)
- Scripture Review Activity:** Sit in a circle on the floor. The teacher will pass two bean bags or stuffed animals around the circle starting one in each direction. The child who ends up with both articles at the same time stops and says the memory verse. The children in the circle can help to say the verse. Continue to pass the two objects in opposite directions until someone else is caught with both. Repeat the verse. Continue as interest allows.
- Snack:** The snack could be eaten under covered tables or in one corner of the room where the Israelites are hiding to keep their food away from the Midianites. There could even be a Midianite raid at snack time.
- Transition Activity:** These words could have been said by Gideon when he led his small army of Israelites. Repeat this poem several times, each time more softly than the last.
Shhh! Be very quiet.
Shhh! Be very still.
Step in line behind me.
There's work for us to do.
- Torch and Jar: (JDG03ECGF9 or JDG03ECGF10)** Each child receives a paper lunch bag, a toilet paper tube, and orange or yellow crepe paper streamers. Let the children color their bags and fold about two inches of the open edge of the bag to the outside to form a kind of casing. Give each two- or three-year-old child a GF9 memory verse sticker to put on his bag. Stickers can be made by copying the GF9 page onto 1" x 2 5/8" laser labels. Older children can use the GF10 verse. The children can color (or cover with foil) the tube or torch handle and tape some short yellow crepe paper streamers inside one end to be the flames of the torch. Orange tissue paper can be used as an alternative torch idea with the tissue sticking out of one end of the tube. Punch a hole in one side of the tube and another hole in the folded edge of the paper bag "jar." Tie a two-foot piece of string from the hole in the tube to the hole in the paper bag edge of the jar to keep them together. Have

fun practicing how Gideon and his men surrounded the Midianites, blew their trumpets, took the “jars” off their torches, and shouted.

Gideon Booklet: (JDG03ECGF12) Fold the GF12 page into fourths to form a booklet. As the children color their pictures, talk about what is happening in the pictures. Let the children tell you the story so that they will be able to tell their parents.

Camels: (JDG03ECGF7) Materials needed: Camel pattern, glue sticks, scissors, pencils, tongue depressors. Copy the camel pattern from the GF7 page onto tan paper. Cut out the camel head and hump before class. During class, have each child trace around each of his hands onto the same colored paper to make the body for the camel. Cut them out. Glue the two edges of the hands together. Add the head and then the hump. Using a glue stick or tape, attach the camel to the tongue depressor. Write the child's name on the back.

Ring Around the Midianites Game: To the tune of “Ring Around the Rosie,” march in a circle and do the appropriate actions. Select some children to be the Midianites in the center of the circle. The Midianites are scared and fall to the floor. The Israelites continue marching, blowing, and shouting “For the Lord and for Gideon.”

Ring around the Midianites, ring around the Midianites.

Drop your jar, shine your torch, blow your horn!

Gideon March: Using the flashlights from the Bible School office and paper sacks (that you have folded up the open edge), march around the room to military music. Stop, take the sacks off, and shine the flashlights while chanting the phrase “For the Lord and for Gideon.” Repeat several times.

Smash the Idols Bowling Activity: See last week's Hook activity.

"The Israelites Attack" Activity: Give each child a flashlight and a small paper cup. Show him how to place the cup over the lit flashlight so the light is partially hidden. Have each child practice his trumpet call (trumpet sound through an open fist) and then turn off the classroom lights. The class quietly follows the teacher on tiptoe around the outside edge of the room and when they stop, the teacher says, "Watch me! Do exactly as I do. I will blow my trumpet, then you will blow your trumpets and give a loud shout." She shows the children how to take the cup off of their light, throw it down, and make a trumpet sound through their fists. Shout and cheer so the Midianites will be afraid! Shine the lights all about the room and stomp on the dropped cups. This is a time of loudness and confusion. You were successful at scaring the Midianites! Now you may need to calm the frightened two-year-olds. Sing “Praise Him, All Ye Little Children” from the Song section.

"Who is Gideon?" Game: Select one child to be a “Midianite” who goes out of the room while you choose a child to be Gideon. Gideon leads the children in all kinds of actions like hopping, clapping, stamping, waving, shaking heads, nodding heads, opening and shutting eyes, etc., until the “Midianite” returns to the room. The Midianite's job is to figure out which child is Gideon, the leader of the Israelites. At the end, remind the children that the Israelites wanted Gideon to be their leader but he said that God was their leader!

Songs:

Have You Ever Seen? This action song is sung to the tune of “Have You Ever Seen a Lassie?” and acted out while marching in a circle.

Have you ever seen a jar break, a jar break, a jar break?

Have you ever seen a jar break going this way and that?

(Pretend to throw down a jar to your right and left.)

Have you ever seen a torch flame, a torch flame, a torch flame?

Have you ever seen a torch flame going this way and that?

(Pretend to hold up a torch to your right and to your left.)

Have you ever heard a trumpet blast, a trumpet blast, a trumpet blast?

Have you ever heard a trumpet blast going this way and that?

(Pretend to blast a trumpet with your hand.)

Have you ever seen a Midianite fall, Midianite fall, Midianite fall?

Have you ever seen a Midianite falling this way and that?

(Lean to right and left and finally fall to the ground.)

Hello, Gideon *(tune: “Frere Jacques”)*

<p>Teacher: Hello, Gideon, This is the Lord. Do not be afraid, Trust in Me.</p>	<p>Echo: Hello, Gideon, This is the Lord. Do not be afraid, Trust in Me.</p>
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Continue the echo between the teacher and students for the following verses:

Verse 2: Hello, Gideon,
Here's what you do.
Go and smash the idols.
Trust in Me.

Verse 3: Hello, Gideon,
You will be okay.
Go and blow your trumpet.
Trust in Me.

Verse 4: Hello, Gideon
This is the Lord.
I am always with you.
Trust in Me.

Sin Cycle (*tune: "Frere Jacques"*)
 Sin was punished; sin was punished. (*Raise one fist straight up to the sky.*)
 "Help," they cried; "Help," they cried. (*Fold your hands in a prayer position.*)
 Go-od sent a ju-udge; Gideon was the ju-udge. (*Bring down your fist like a gavel.*)
 Peace outside; peace inside. (*Stretch out your arms, smile, then pat your heart.*)

Judges 2:12 Memory Verse Song for 2's & 3's (*tune: "Farmer in the Dell"*)
 They disobeyed the Lord; they disobeyed the Lord.
 Judges two twe-elve says,
 "They disobeyed the Lord."

Judges 2:12 Memory Verse Song for 4's & 5's (*tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"*)
 They forsook the Lord; they worshipped various gods
 Of the peoples around them.
 Judges two-o twelve.


Praise Him! Praise Him!
 Praise Him! Praise Him, all ye little children.
 God is good; God is strong.
 Praise Him! Praise Him, all ye little children.
 God is good; God is strong.
Other verses: Trust Him! Trust Him!; Love Him! Love Him; Follow Jesus, all ye little children.




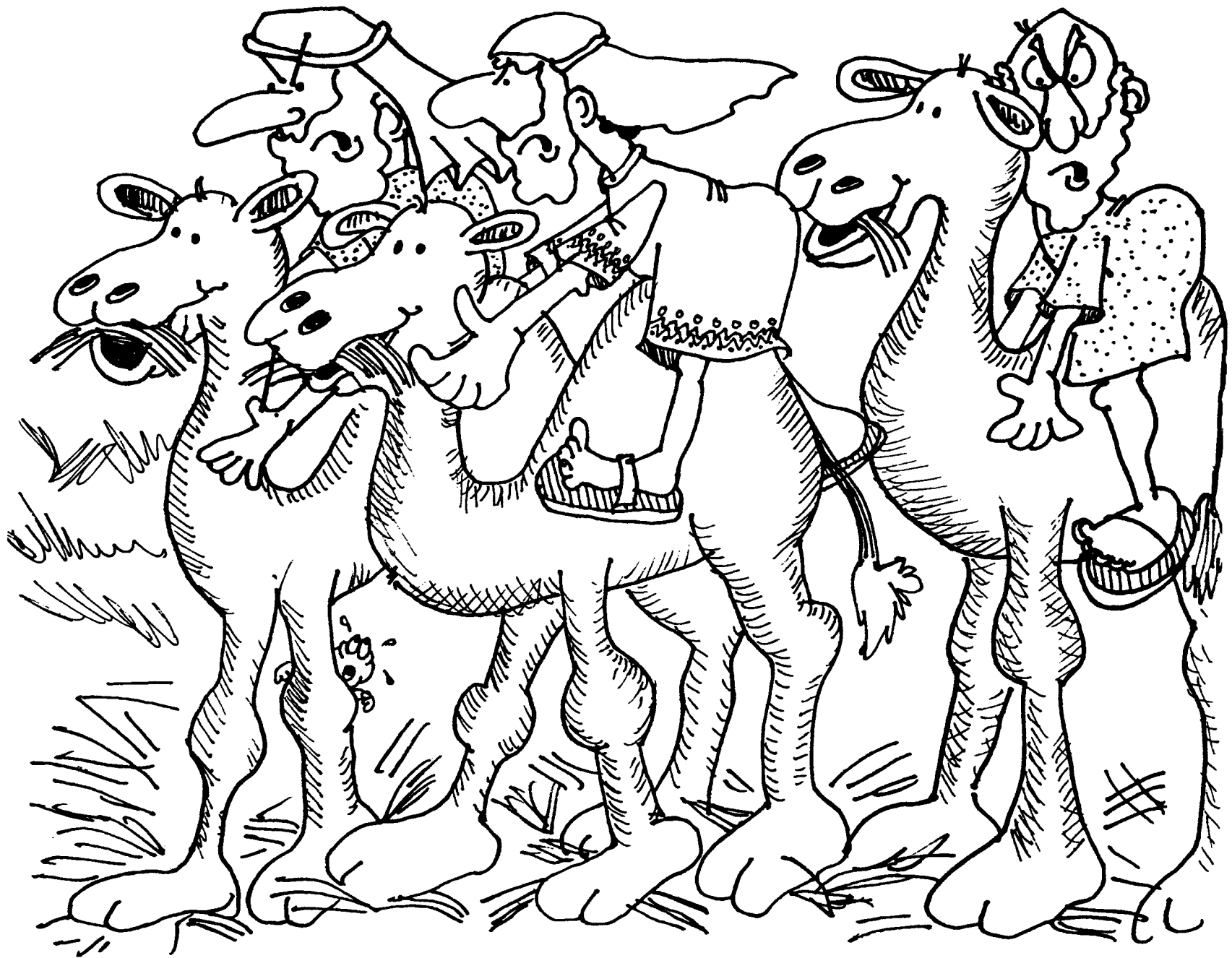
Took:

Party Horn Necklace: (JDG03ECGF10) Give each child a party horn and a four-foot piece of yarn. A horn can be made by rolling a 3" x 8" piece of cardstock into a cylinder and taping the edges. Tie the yarn around the upper edge of the horn and tape the yarn in place. Punch a hole in the corner of the GF10 memory verse card and the GF10 "For the Lord and for Gideon" card. Thread these cards onto the yarn and secure them with knots. Use this horn to review the verse while marching for the Lord and Gideon.

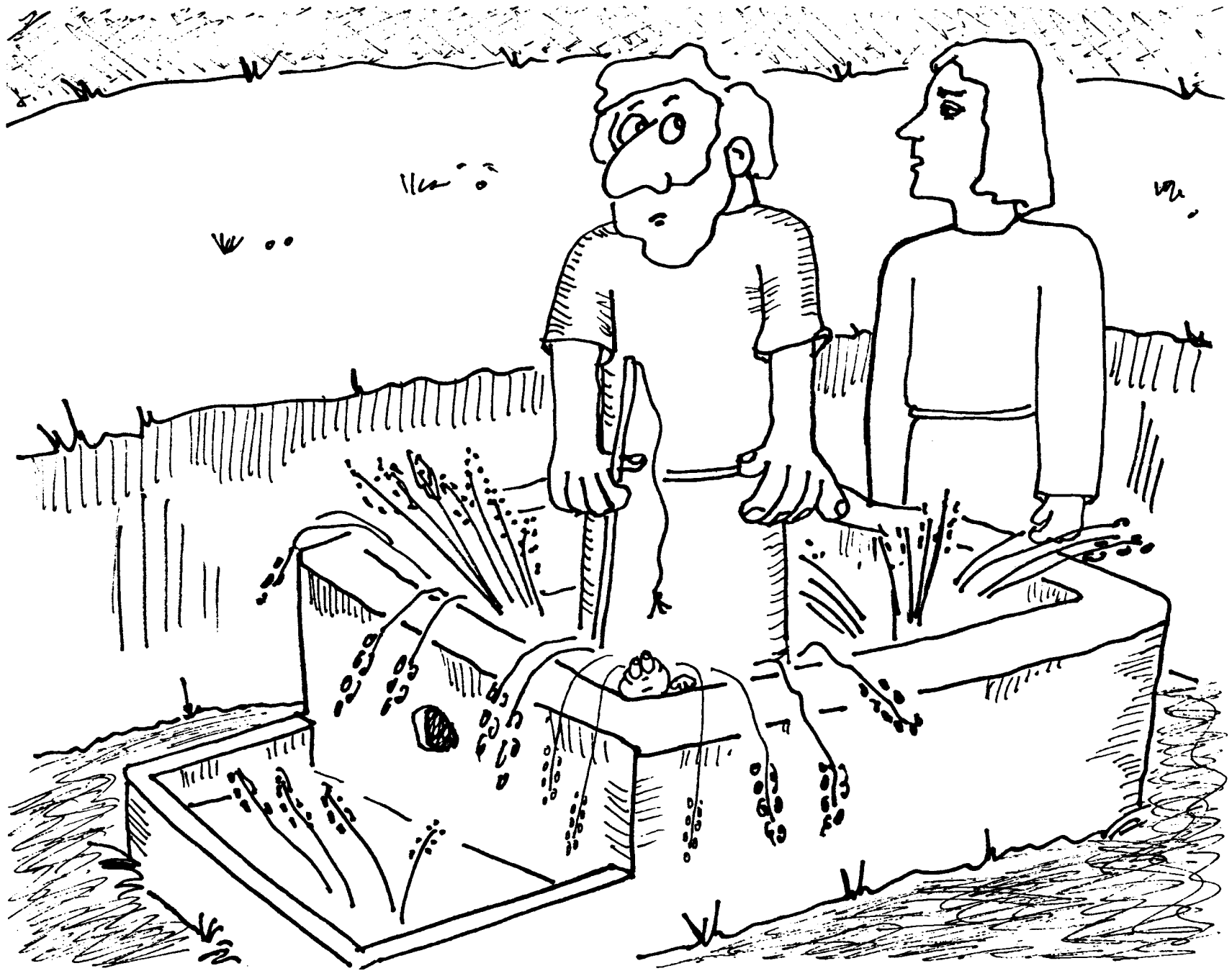
Judges Booklet Page: (JDG03ECGF11) Color the GF11 pictures for the booklet this week, reviewing the Bible Adventure together. Add grain in the third bag of the children's booklets, or let them glue the grain by the feet of the Midianite camels. This will remind the children that the Midianite camels were eating all the Israelites' food.

 **Gideon and Midianite Finger Puppets: (JDG03ECGF8)** Copy the GF8 finger puppets on cardstock paper and give one Gideon and one Midianite on a camel to each child. For younger children, just cut out squares. Cut out the finger holes. Color and add yarn for the camel hair. Glue foil on the trumpet and yellow or orange paper on the torch. Let the children role play with their finger puppets, first being a Midianite talking about how his camel is going to eat all the Israelites' food. Have the Midianite run away when Gideon blows his trumpet.

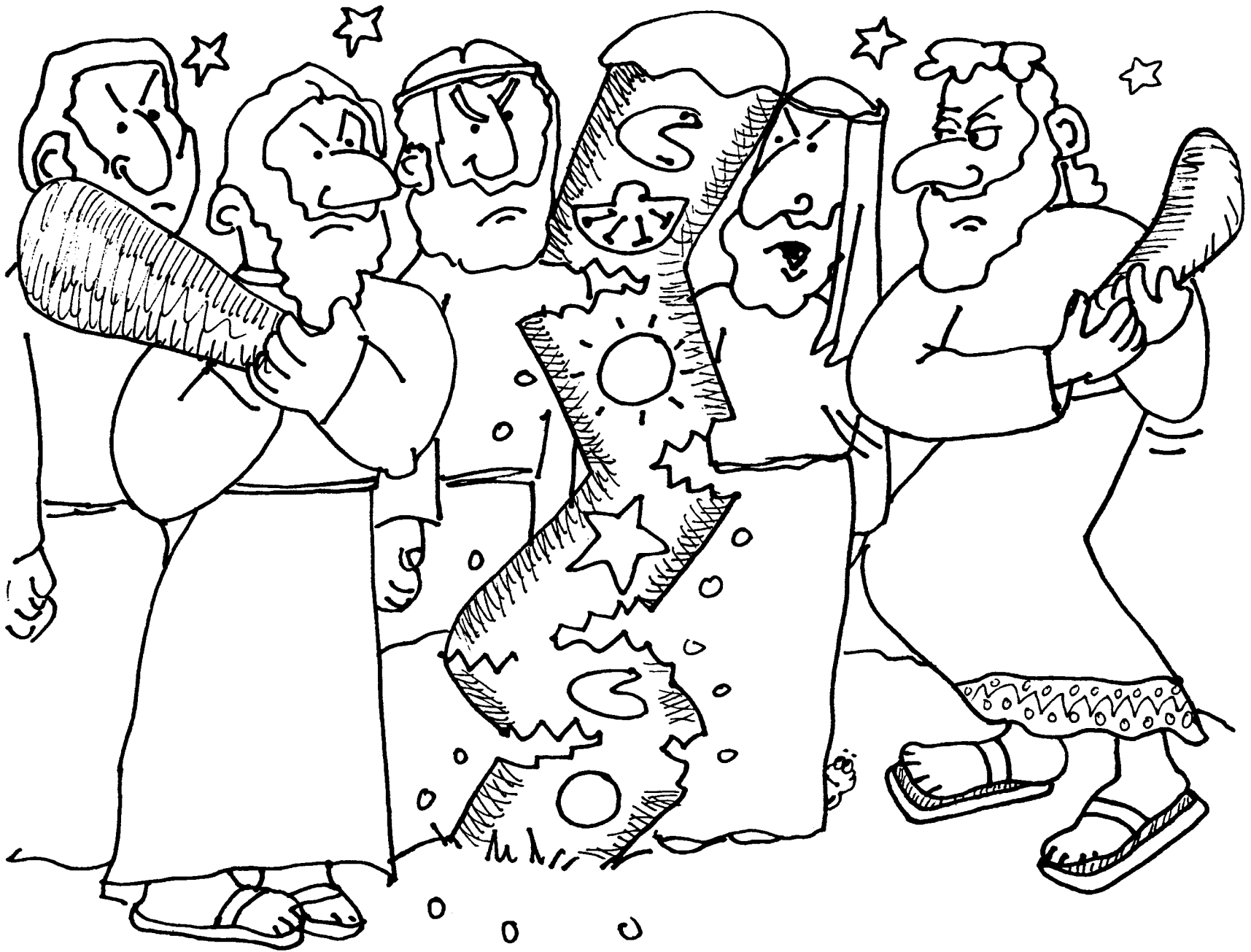
 **Preschool Page for Parents: (JDG03ECPPP)** Send a page home with each child, encouraging parents to reinforce the Bible truths at home. Spend a few minutes before the children go home creatively reviewing the song and memory verse.



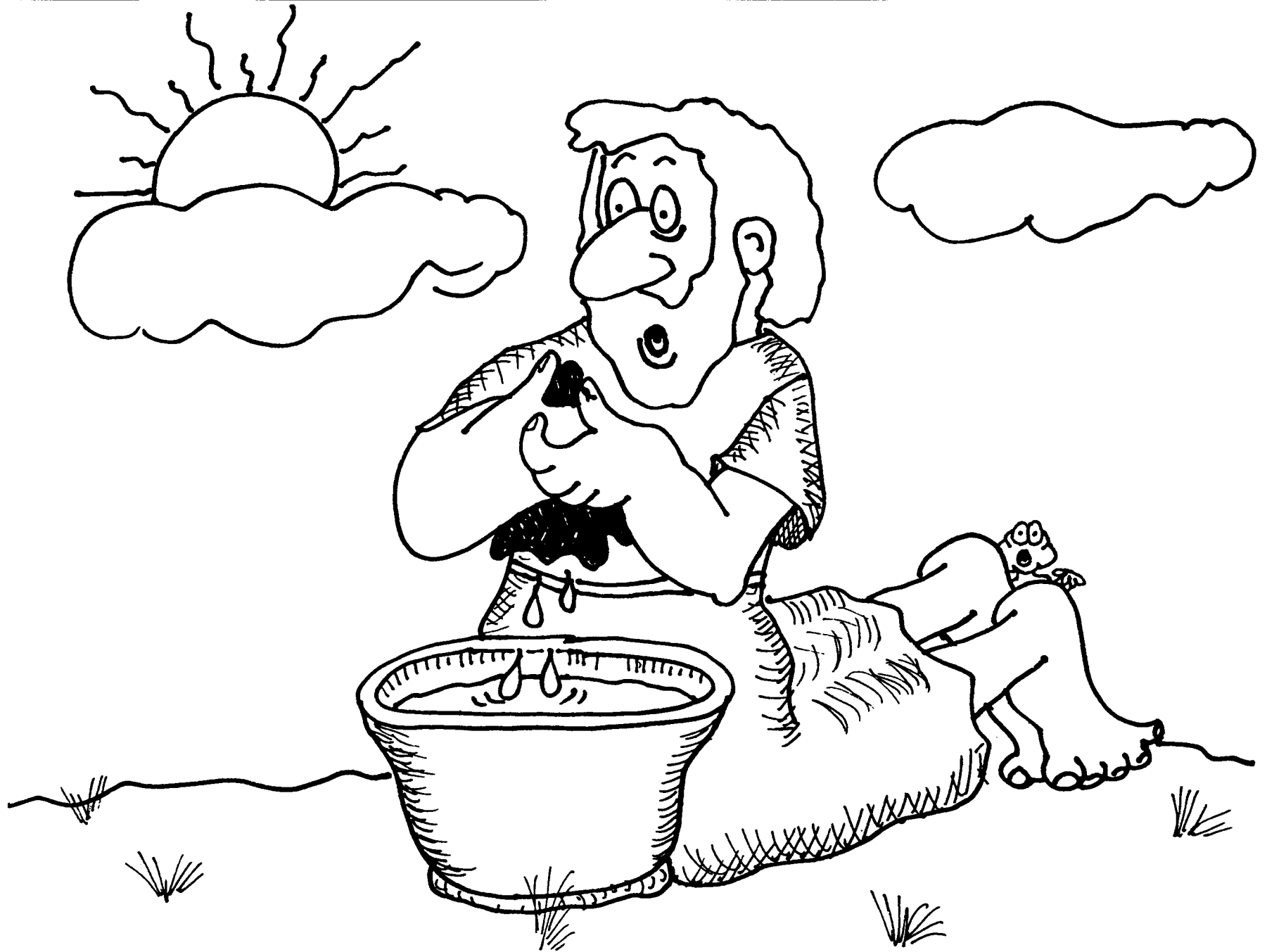
Each harvest, the strong Midianites came and took all of the Israelites' food.



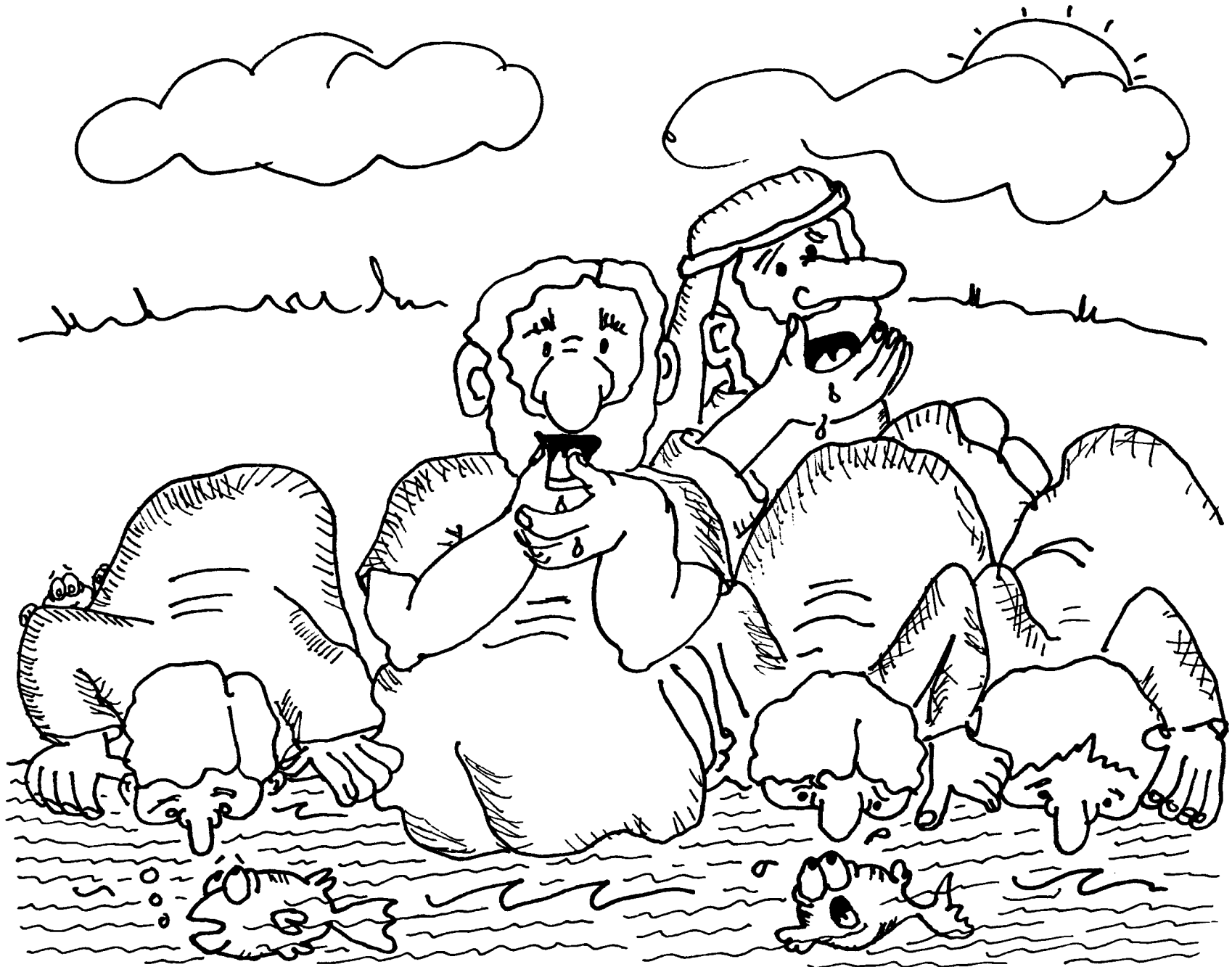
An angel told Gideon he would be the next judge of Israel.



God told Gideon to smash his father's Asherah pole.



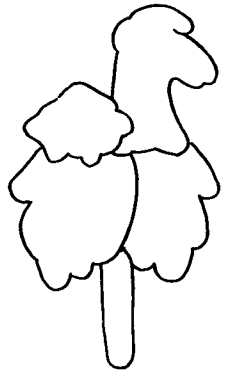
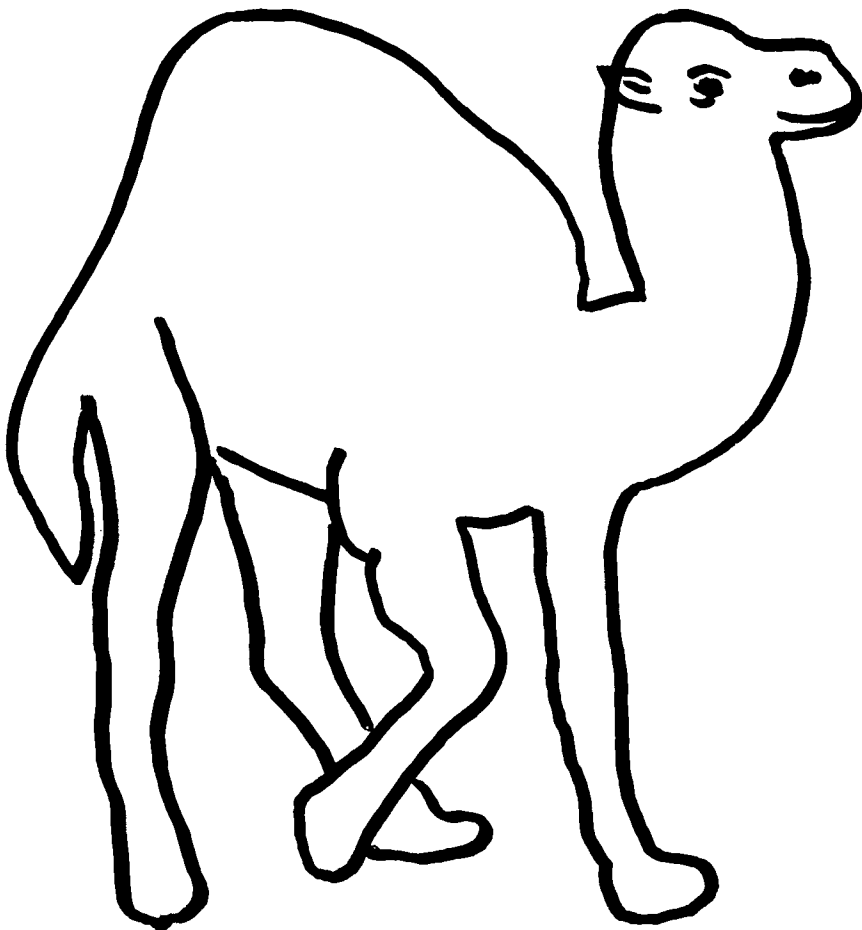
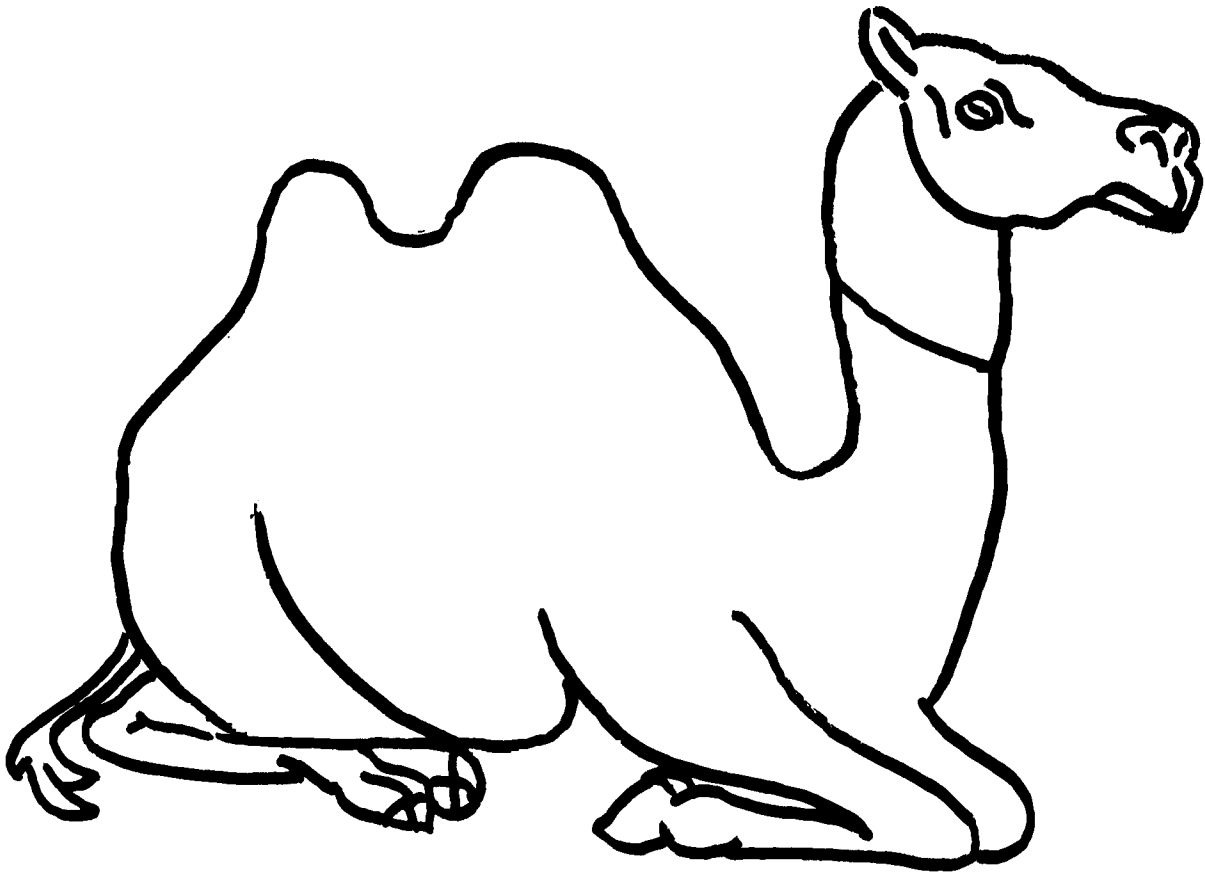
God made the fleece dripping wet but the ground around it was dry.



The men who lapped water from their hands stayed to fight with Gideon.

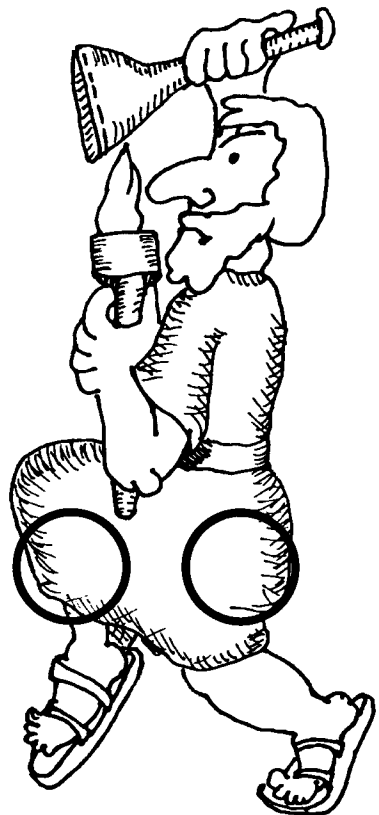
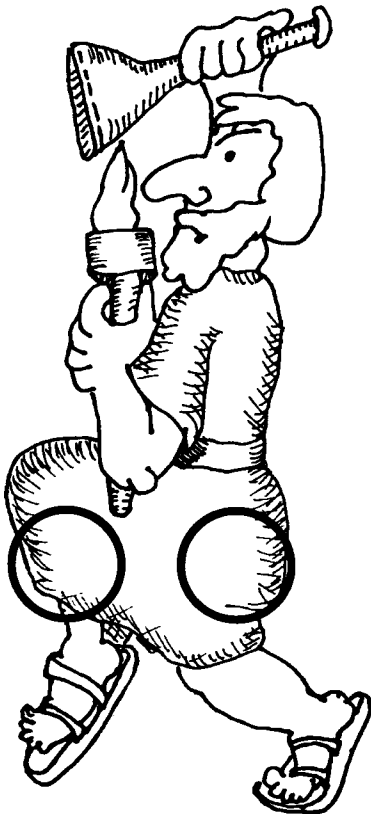
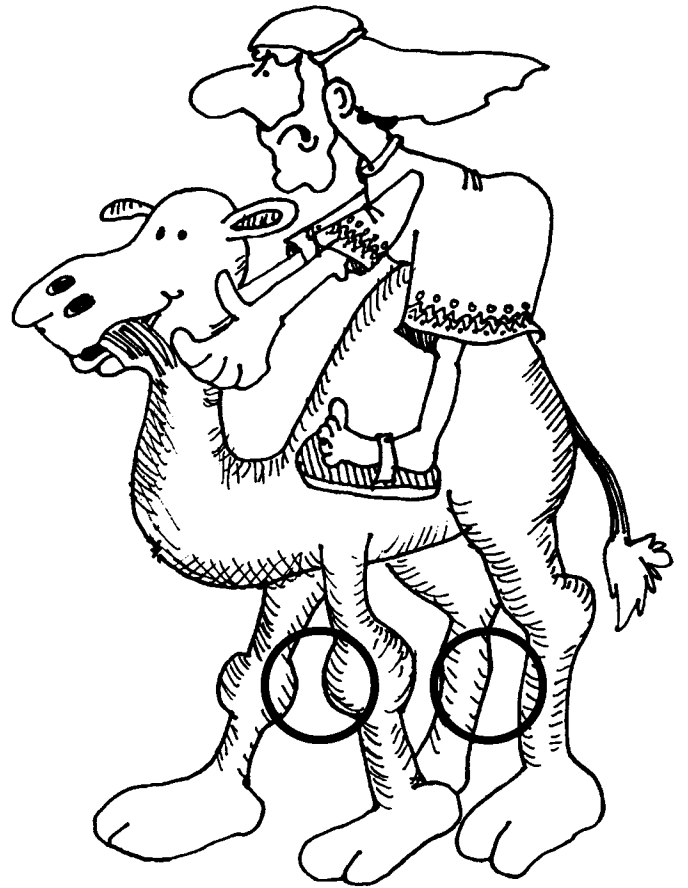
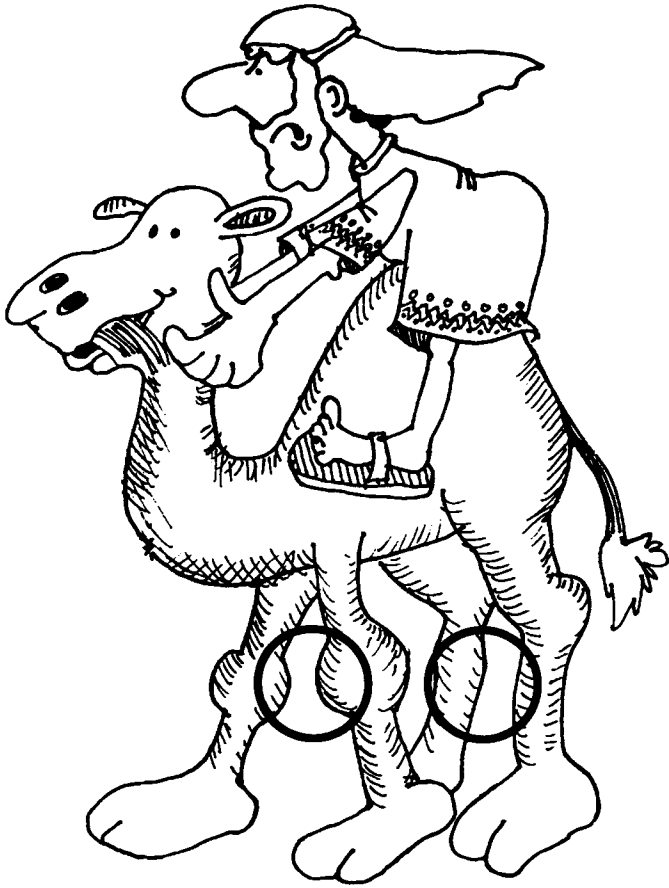


The Israelites scared the sleeping Midianites with trumpets and torches.



Sample

Gideon and Midianite Finger Puppets



Party Horn Necklace

**"For the Lord
and for
Gideon."**

**They forsook the Lord...
They worshipped various
gods of the
peoples around them.
Judges 2:12**

**They forsook the Lord...
They worshipped various
gods of the
peoples around them.
Judges 2:12**

**"For the Lord
and for
Gideon."**



God sent Judge Gideon to rescue the Israelites from the Midianites.



The Israelites repented when the Midianite camels ate all their food.



God sent Judge Gideon to rescue the Israelites from the Midianites.



The Israelites repented when the Midianite camels ate all their food.

Cut on both lines, making two sets of two pictures. Fold each set in half to put in the Judges Booklets.

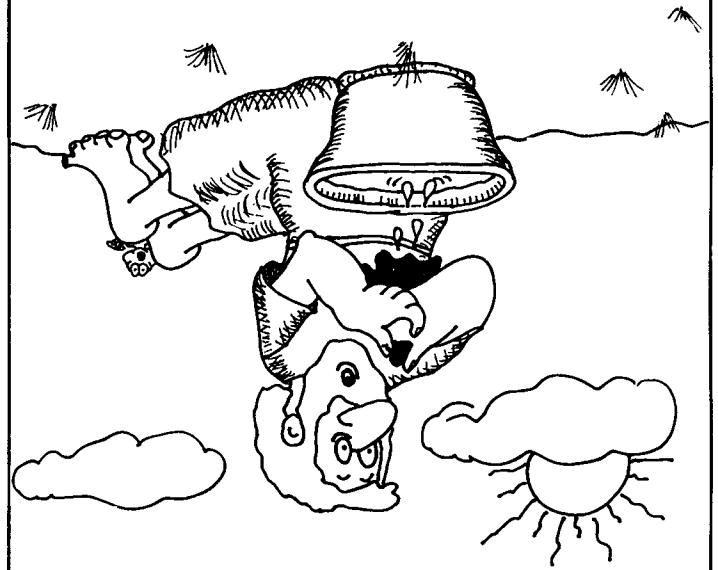
3.

God chose three hundred men to fight with Gideon.



2.

Gideon believed that God would help him fight the Midianite enemies when the fleece was soaking wet.



Gideon and his men blew trumpets, held torches, and gave a loud shout.

4.



The Israelites cried to God for help when the Midianites ate all their crops.

Sin Cycle

(tune: "Frere Jacques")

Sin was punished; sin was punished.

(Raise one fist straight up to the sky.)

"Help," they cried; "Help," they cried.

(Fold your hands in a prayer position.)

Go-od sent a ju-udge; Gideon was the ju-udge.

(Bring down your fist like a gavel.)

Peace outside; peace inside.

(Stretch out your arms, smile, then pat your heart.)

1.



This is what I learned today!

In the book of Judges, we learned today that the Israelites forgot about God and started worshipping idols again (Sin). God allowed the mean Midianites to come each year at harvest time to eat all of their food (Punishment). The Israelites were sad and afraid and finally asked God to help them (Repent). God sent Gideon who followed God's plan to use trumpets, jars, and fire to defeat the Midianites (Rescue). It worked! The Israelites wanted Gideon to be their ruler but Gideon knew that only God should rule over His people.

Today's Memory Verse:

**2's & 3's: They disobeyed the Lord...
and worshipped idols.
Judges 2:12**

**4's & 5's: They forsook the Lord...
They worshipped various gods of the
peoples around them. Judges 2:12**

Hide-and-Go Gideon



As a family, play a variation of the hide-and-seek game. Let one child be a Midianite who finds a hiding place where he can pretend to sleep like the Midianites who were camping in Judges 7:16-21. The rest of the family finds an object (plunger, broom handle, wooden spoon, ruler, etc.) to put in one hand to represent a trumpet and another object to be like a torch in the other hand. The family slowly counts, "One hundred, two hundred, three hundred, go!" (This number represents the three hundred brave men who attacked the Midianites.) When the family finds the sleeping Midianite, pretend to blow the trumpets, hold up the torches, and shout, "For the Lord and for Gideon." Continue playing with a different Midianite.

Sin Cycle Song (tune: "Frere Jacques")

Sin was punished; sin was punished.
"Help," they cried; "Help," they cried.
Go-od sent a ju-udge; Gideon was a ju-udge.
Peace outside; peace inside.



The Israelites scared the sleeping Midianites with trumpets and torches.