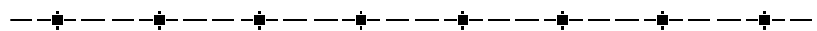


# Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2009

# Through the Old Testament in Two Years

## Part One



Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

## Gideon

Last week we learned that God sent Deborah to judge Israel and help them understand what God wanted. God spoke to Deborah and told her what to do so that Israel would be delivered from their enemies. Deborah obeyed God. God was faithful to protect Israel.

Judges 6-7

### Read the Bible

**READ: Judges 7:9-25 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

### Memory Verse:

Every time people broke the Law, they were punished.  
Every time they didn't obey, they were punished.  
**(Hebrews 2:2 NIV)**

After Deborah died, God's people loved God for a while, then they would worship statues in place of God and do wrong things for a while. Because of this, they had some hard times. A group of people called the Midianites were cruel to them. In fact, God's people hid in caves to escape their mean ways. (Judges 6:1-2)

One day a man named Gideon was sifting wheat. Suddenly an angel appeared and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!" (Judges 6:11-12) Gideon was surprised. Then he wanted to ask a question. He asked the angel why God was not helping His people. He wondered why they were having such a hard time. The angel told him that he was the one that would help God's people. (Judges 6:11-14) Gideon gulped. He explained to the angel that he was the weakest person in his family. He certainly couldn't conquer the Midianites. (Judges 6:15-16)

### Goals:

1. Understand that Gideon was afraid to fight the Midianites.
2. Learn that Gideon asked God the reason they were suffering.
3. Understand that God sent an angel to tell Gideon that God would help them.
4. Recognize that God was faithful to deliver Israel.

God told Gideon that He would be with him. Gideon was unsure, so he decided to ask for proof. "God, show me that you are really talking to me. Please wait here until I return." Gideon ran to bring an offering to God. (Judges 6:17-18)

The angel told Gideon to put the meat and bread under the tree. Gideon followed the instructions. When the angel touched the food with his stick, it burst into flames! Gideon realized that he WAS talking to an angel. He became scared, but God told him everything was fine. (Judges 6:19-24)

That night God told Gideon that he must break down his father's idol. So, that night he and ten servants broke down the idol statue. The next morning everyone was mad. They wanted someone to pay for the destruction. Finally Gideon's father told the people, "Let the idol take care of himself." Nothing happened. The people realized that the idol was just a statue; it was not God. (Judges 6:25-31)

Again, Gideon told God that he wanted proof that He would help him. He set out some wool (fleece) in the grass. He told God only to have dew on the wool

## Gideon — Bible Facts

1. The Midianites were oppressing them.
2. God sent Gideon to deliver them.
3. God showed Gideon that He would hand over his enemies.
4. God delivered Israel.

and not on the grass. That next morning, the wool was wet but the grass wasn't wet! (Judges 6:33-38) Gideon decided he needed more proof. He asked God to make the wool dry and the grass wet. Sure enough, that next morning it was dry and the grass was wet! (Judges 6:39-40)

The next day Gideon and his people were ready to go into battle. But God told Gideon to announce that anyone who was afraid could go home. Lots of men left, but lots remained. (Judges 6:33-40) God knew that if Gideon had that many people, God would not get the credit for helping them. So, he told Gideon to choose only the people who lapped up water when they drank. Believe it or not only 300 men did this. Gideon trusted God. He knew that only God could help them win the battle because the Midianites had thousands of fighting men! (Judges 7:1-8)

In the middle of the night, God told Gideon to get up and get ready. God told Gideon to go to the enemy camp and listen to what they were saying. "After that, you will not be afraid to attack the camp." When Gideon went he heard one man tell about a dream he had. The friend of the man said, "God has handed the Midianites over to him." Gideon left and worshipped God. (Judges 7:9-14)

Gideon returned to the camp and divided the men into three groups and gave them trumpets and fiery torches which were in dark jars so that they could not be seen. When they surrounded the camp, Gideon blew his trumpet and brought out his torch. All the men did this too. (Judges 7:9-20)

The Midianites were so shocked and scared that they panicked! "God caused all of the men in the enemy camp to start fighting each other. They attacked each other with their swords." (Judges 7:21-25) All the people knew that it was God who helped them.

It took lots of proof for Gideon to finally believe. Gideon did have to trust God and go forward into battle. God was faithful. He did what He said.

### Review

1. **What happened to Israel?** (The Midianites were oppressing them.)
2. **What did God do?** (God sent Gideon to deliver them.)
3. **What happened next?** (God showed Gideon that He would hand over his enemies.)
4. **What did God do next?** (God delivered Israel.)

### Do You Know Jesus?

"Every time people broke the Law, they were punished. Every time they didn't obey, they were punished." (Hebrews 2:2 NIV) God is faithful to us too. He promises us that He will always be with us if we believe in Him and trust Jesus in our hearts.

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us.
3. Ask God to help you trust Him
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to trust God.

### Application

Gideon was afraid to fight the Midianites. An angel appeared to Gideon. Gideon asked the angel why Israel was suffering. The angel told Gideon that God would help them. Gideon obeyed God. God was faithful to deliver Israel. God wants us to trust Him and to obey Him.

## Planning for the next week:

### Samson — Judges 13-16

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ:** Judges 7:9-25 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

**Teachers:** Cut out felt to make a mobile of the lesson. Let the children retell the story.

A group of people called the Midianites were cruel to God's people. In fact, God's people hid in caves to escape their mean ways.

One day a man named Gideon was making wheat. Suddenly an angel appeared and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!" Gideon was surprised. The angel told him that he was the one that would help God's people.

Gideon gulped. He explained to the angel that he was the weakest person in his family. He certainly couldn't conquer the Midianites.

God told Gideon that He would be with him. Gideon was unsure, so he decided to ask for proof. "God, show me that you are really talking to me. Please wait here until I return." Gideon ran to bring an offering to God. The angel told Gideon to put the meat and bread under the tree. Gideon followed the instructions. When the angel touched the food with his stick, it burst into flames! Gideon realized that he WAS talking to an angel. He became scared, but God told him everything was fine.

Again, Gideon told God that he wanted proof that He would help him. He set out some wool (fleece) in the grass. He told God only to have dew on the wool and not on the grass. That next morning, the wool was wet but the grass wasn't wet! (You may have to explain what dew is) Gideon decided he needed more proof. He asked God to make the wool dry and the grass wet. Sure enough, that next morning it was dry and the grass was wet!

The next day Gideon and his people were ready to go into battle. But God told Gideon to announce that anyone who was afraid could go home. Lots of men left, but lots remained.

God knew that if Gideon had that many people, God would not get the credit for helping them. So, he told Gideon to choose only the people who lapped up water when they drank. Believe it or not only 300 men did this. Gideon trusted God. He knew that only God could help them win the battle because the Midianites had thousands of fighting men!

In the middle of the night, God told Gideon to get up and get ready. He divided the men into three groups and gave them trumpets and fiery torches which were in dark jars so that it could not be seen. When they surrounded the camp, Gideon blew his trumpet and brought out his torch. All the men did this too.

The Midianites were so shocked and scared that they panicked! God won the battle! All the people knew that it was God who helped them!

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us.
3. Ask God to help you trust Him

### Memory verse for younger children

Every time they didn't obey, they were punished. Hebrews 2:2

## Learning Activities

**Memory verse activity** — Make torches out of paper bags. Put orange, yellow, red and brown tissue paper to make the flames or color the flames. Write the Bible verse on the torch.

**Test your memory** — Cut out felt to make a mobile of the lesson. Let the children retell the story.

**Taste activity** — Make Gideon’s wheat snacks to eat. Use crackers and peanut butter to make delicious snacks to remind the kids of Gideon’s old job—a farmer.

Share snacks like bugles to remember the horns and torches.

**Think about it** — Gideon was afraid and hid from the angel. Talk about what Gideon might have felt.

Gideon asked why God had abandoned Israel. Talk about the pattern of sin in Israel. Talk about how God sent Jesus to save us from sin.

Gideon asked God for proof. God answered. Talk about the fleece and the dew. Talk about how we can trust God without asking for proof.

**Touch activity** — Make Paper Torches. Overlap pieces of paper or newsprint. Roll into a cylinder and cut 2 or 3 inches down around the top to make a frayed edge. Pull on the top as you turn the cylinder and the torch will grow in size.

Decorate a clothes pin to look like Gideon. Hide the clothes pin and let the kids find “him.”

Create Trumpets using the pattern and paper towel rolls.

Use cotton to make Fleece.

**Run and play** — Play the “Wool game.” Fleece comes from sheep so play this fun game with smaller kids. Have the children stand in a circle. Have one child sit in the center and blindfold him/her. Have the children walk around the circle until the blindfolded child says “stop.” Now he points to a “sheep” who must “baa” like a sheep. The blindfolded child must try to guess who is “baaing.” If he is right, the two will switch places. If he is wrong, he will get another chance to see who is “baaing.”

Play Hide and Seek.

**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to trust and obey Him.

**Sing** — Sing “Have Faith in God,” “He Is Able to Deliver Thee,” “Trust and Obey,” “Obedience,” or another song related to the story.

**Reach out** — During class, pray for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take the torches with the memory verse for them.

## Memory Verse

Every time people  
broke the Law,  
they were punished.  
Every time they  
didn't obey,  
they were punished.  
Hebrews 2:2

## Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

An angel

spoke to

Gideon

## Word Search

T B T T R V P K A A J G W J K G F  
P H D O S K S C L P I F V C I L M  
S I R S R N R I K C V G S D C I P  
Y D K E L C T L S B H R E H D D V  
P S B J E H H G R L N O P I V M L  
H S R B C H F E T P N R A V P A N  
S P R V K S U G S I D N I M K S J  
R K N J D G P N S F I E B K R T G  
N T N I S L Y R D T C R S P S N H  
J R H D N T A S E R J G T L N K P  
N S T K S E R S D A E S Y S G T J  
J B S J L B D R G N F D H G N S K  
G F T W M I V H J L R P D U F L R  
S C O V A J R J B S F E C R A I S  
M O N R S N G R D F I P T V E A T  
L R F Q W V B T D G S S K A P A V  
S A P V K T N J H C X R D L W W M

ISRAEL

GIDEON

WOOL

AFRAID

THREE HUNDRED

WATER

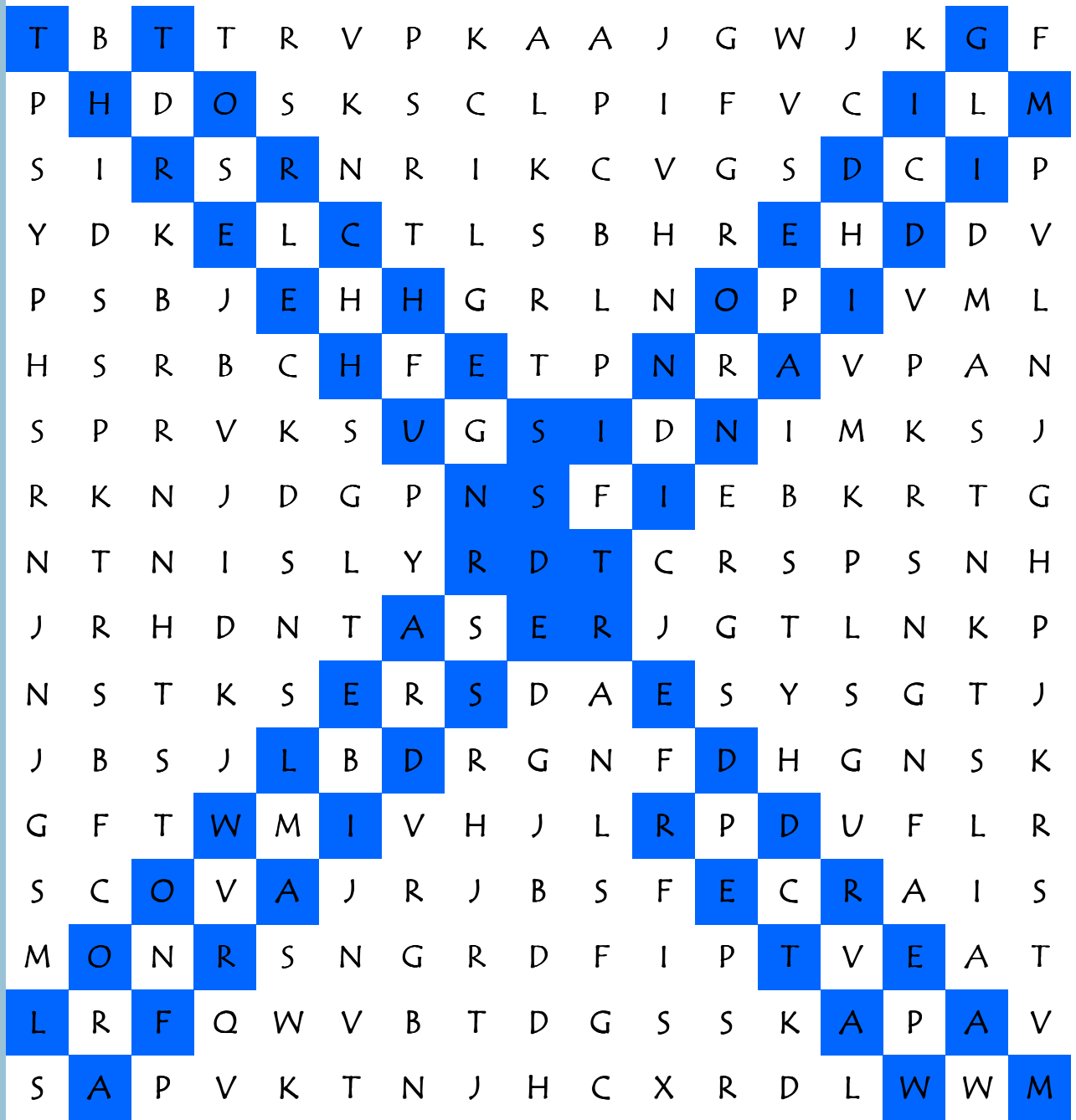
DREAM

MIDIANITES

TORCHES



## Word Search



ISRAEL

GIDEON

WOOL

AFRAID

THREE HUNDRED

WATER

DREAM

MIDIANITES

TORCHES

## Word Search

F C K B P V S I S E R A  
P R F I G H T L N V J S  
P R G P M T S B F R G K  
G I D E O N B H T Y K F  
J R V M P D E B P R V H  
M F P K S B N K H I D E  
W B M L S T F G P B C M  
J F R G S T W H E A T D  
S M V D N C S J C D P F  
H K N J A N G E L H K D  
F R G S C B K P F C T S  
J C E N E M Y M H B S T

GIDEON

ANGEL

HIDE

WHEAT

FIGHT

ENEMY

## Word Search

F C K B P V S I S E R A  
P R **F I G H T** L N V J S  
P R G P M T S B F R G K  
**G I D E O N** B H T Y K F  
J R V M P D E B P R V H  
M F P K S B N K **H I D E**  
W B M L S T F G P B C M  
J F R G S T **W H E A T** D  
S M V D N C S J C D P F  
H K N J **A N G E L** H K D  
F R G S C B K P F C T S  
J C **E N E M Y** M H B S T

GIDEON

ANGEL

HIDE

WHEAT

FIGHT

ENEMY

# Anagram

GIDEON

WHEAT

ANGEL

GHYTIM

OAIRRRW

SAETIIDMNN

EFELEC

EWD

GHIFT

## Anagram

GIDEON

WHEAT

ANGEL

MIGHTY

WARRIOR

MIDIANITES

FLEECE

DEW

FIGHT