LESSON 14

GIDEON DESTROYS THE IDOLS IN ISRAEL



Aim: **To show the children that God is far greater than any idol made of wood or stone. We worship the living God, while idols are powerless and dead.**

Scripture Reading: **Judges 6:25-32; Isaiah 44:9-20**

Memory Verse: **Isaiah 44:9**
All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

Ask the class to name some things that have power (examples: a motorcar or an electric generator which can be used to give light). Then ask them to name some other things which have no power (examples: a rock or a piece of wood).

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Our God is the source of all power, but the Israelites forgot that. They also forgot all the wonders God had performed to save them and to triumph over their enemies. They started worshipping idols carved from wood or stone. These were the gods of the Canaanite tribes, their neighbours, who were the people of Israel's enemies.
2. God told Gideon to destroy these idols and their places of worship. The stones he had to use to build an altar to God, and the wood to make a fire for bringing God a burnt offering (6:25-26).
3. Gideon was so afraid that he took 10 of his servants and did the work at night, when no-one would see them. **Show Picture 14.** Gideon wanted to obey God, but he was scared of what other people would say (6:27).
4. When the townspeople found out what had happened to their gods, they were very angry, just as Gideon had feared. They wanted to kill him (6:28-30).
5. But Gideon's father protected him. "If Baal and Asherah" (the names of these idols) "really have any power, they will punish Gideon themselves," he said. Of course, nothing happened, because Baal and Asherah were just figures of wood and stone. They were not real, living gods (6:31-32).

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Our Response to the Story

Nearly 20 years ago a few Christians in the Kerio Valley in Kenya prepared a runway for an aeroplane. They had to cut down trees and move big boulders. They wanted a Christian medical safari to come to that isolated area and bring the people the gospel of Christ as well as medical help. In the process the Christians destroyed two big anthills which were believed to be sacred and powerful.

The Christians knew there was no real power in these anthills, so they were not afraid to break them down. Today there are many Christian churches in that area.

Instil the Memory Verse



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