LESSON 15

GOD LETS GIDEON CHOOSE ONLY A HANDFUL



Aim: **To show the children that we should trust in God's power, not in our own strength.**

Scripture Reading: **Judges 7:1–7**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 98:1**
[The Lord's] right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation …

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask the class what they think a soldier should be like. Examples: He must be brave, well-trained, alert and obey his commanders.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. God called Gideon to lead the soldiers of Israel against the very large army of their enemy the Midianites (7:1). God instructed Gideon to choose his soldiers in an unusual way.
2. Many men from Israel came to join Gideon's army, but God told Gideon, "You have too many men. If they defeat the Midianites, they will think they did it by themselves. Send home anyone who is afraid." 22 000 men then returned home (7:2–3).
3. God spoke to Gideon again, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the river to drink some water and I will show you whom to choose to fight the battle" (7:4).
4. Gideon took the men to the river to drink. **Show Picture 15.** Most of them knelt down and drank like a dog does. Only 300 drank the water from their hands. God told Gideon to take only these 300 soldiers to fight the mighty Midianite army (7:5–7).

OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

God allowed Gideon only 300 soldiers against all the Midianites so that Israel would see that they had to rely on God's power, not on their own strength. Then they would honour God for saving them, instead of thinking they could do without him (7:2). God does not need many people or strong people to do his work; he needs willing and obedient people.

Soon after Zaire gained independence a civil war broke out. The rebel soldiers, called the Simbas, opposed Christianity. The Christians were frightened and believed the Simbas would kill them.

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"God is at work here," said Yoane Akudri, a church leader. "We will preach to the Simbas. They need it more than our people do." Yoane was arrested, and six shots were fired at him. They all missed. Later, after Yoane was released he went on preaching. Instead of disappearing, the Christian church in Zaire grew.

Instil the Memory Verse



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