

## Lesson 11

# *A Trumpet, a Pitcher, a*

### Judges 7

#### Memory Verse

"Fear thou not; for I am  
with thee: be not dis-  
mayed: for I am thy God: I  
will strengthen thee; yea,  
I will help thee"  
(Isaiah 41:10)

#### Teacher's Objective

At the end of the session,  
the students should be  
able to:

**Define** the word *trust*

**Locate** on a map the  
Jezreel Valley

**Describe** how God  
helped Gideon

**Express** in their own  
words a time when  
they may need  
God's help

#### Materials Needed

See "Teaching Activities"  
for specific activities

## Teacher's Bible Study

**R**emind your students of the story they read in Judges 6 several weeks ago—how Gideon was one of Israel's great ruler-judges. During his time the Midianites made life miserable for the people of Israel, stealing their cattle and destroying all their crops.

One day as Gideon was working, God's angel appeared to him and told him that the Lord would help him defeat the Midianites. God told Gideon to tear down the wooden image and altar to Baal. In its place he was to build an altar to the true God. When Gideon was found out, the people in the city were so angry they wanted to kill him.

Gideon was afraid to fight the Midianites. He asked God to let him know for sure that God would lead him. Gideon put a sheep fleece on the ground. In the morning the fleece was soaking wet, but the ground was dry. The next night, the fleece was dry, but the ground was wet. Gideon was then satisfied that God was with him.

This week's story is about how Gideon with his 300 men won the battle against the Midianites without ever fighting. He exemplified trust and obedience to God. The Israelites wanted to make Gideon king, but he refused. He said God should rule over them. The Israelites had peace for forty years. But after Gideon died, the Israelites again began to worship false gods (Judges 6:1–8:33).

During Abraham's time all pottery was made by hand. It was rough and awkward looking. By the time of Gideon most pottery was done on a potter's wheel. This important invention gave pottery a smooth and symmetrical look. The pitchers used by Gideon's army were probably made of clay.

In preparing for this week's lesson, go over Lesson two. Be sure to read Psalm 71, John 15, and Hebrews 11:32–40.

## Presenting the Bible Story

### Judges 7:1–2

Gideon's men numbered 32,000, while the Midianite force was 135,000. Gideon and his men were camped in the Harod Valley. The Midianites were three or four miles north of them on the hill Moreh.

God did not want the Israelites to claim the victory. God told Gideon to walk through the camp and say, "Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once." Gideon's army is now down to 10,000. Once again, God spoke to Gideon, "The people are still too many." God instructed Gideon to take them down to the water. About now, Gideon must have been thinking, *How could there still be too many men? But I will trust God.* Read verses 5 and 6. This test identified those who were watchful.

### Judges 7:3–6

Now Gideon is left with 300 men. Gideon was reassured by God, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place." Gideon did exactly what God told him to do. Gideon trusted God.

### Judges 7: 7–10

God knew that while Gideon was obeying His words, Gideon was afraid. God provided two further means of encouragement. (1) "Go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand." (2) God provided a dream. A Midianite told the dream and Gideon overheard it.

### Judges 7:11–15

The symbolism of the barley bread described the poverty-stricken Israelites, and the tent referred to the nomadic Midianites. Gideon knew that this was encouragement from God and that Israel would be victorious over Midian. Spontaneously Gideon worshiped God after he heard this dream.

### Judges 7:16–22

Gideon divided his three hundred men into three companies. Their weapons were strange indeed: trumpets and empty jars with torches inside. Gideon and his men arrived at the Midianite camp at the beginning of the middle watch just after they had changed the guard. A watch during Gideon's time was probably as follows: first watch 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; middle watch 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.; and the morning watch 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. It was at this critical change of the watch that the Israelites blew their trumpets and broke the jars revealing glowing torches. Their battle cry was "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" The trumpets' blast, the loud clatter of breaking jars, and the blinding light caused such panic that the Midianites began swinging swords at each other. This was divinely planned confusion. The Israelites watched in safety around the camp. Those that were not killed fled to the southeast to Beth Shittah and Abel Meholah.

### Judges 7:23–25

Gideon summoned reinforcement from Naphtali, Asher, Ephraim, and all Manasseh to pursue the fleeing Midianites. The capture of the Midianite leaders Oreb and Zeeb, whose heads were brought to Gideon, was a typical military practice.

What mattered was Gideon's morale and confidence that God was

## **Art and Activities**

with him. It was irrelevant how many men Gideon possessed to fight the Midianites. What was important was that Gideon pleased God by obeying Him. In our lives, we should not be afraid to fight a difficult battle if we obey God first and put our trust in Him. God will be there giving us the strength that we need.

## **Teaching Activities**

**Explore with your students the following questions:**

### **Young Children**

Provide copies of Activity Page appropriate for your students.

### **Older Children**

Provide copies of Activity Page appropriate for your students.

## **Explore the Subject**

**Always close your class with prayer**

1. What was the lie Rebekah and Jacob perpetrated?
2. How does one lie lead to another? Give examples from today's story.
3. In spite of human beings, God's way does triumph. Look up Romans 8:28. Explain this verse in relation to the story.

## **Respond and Reinforce**

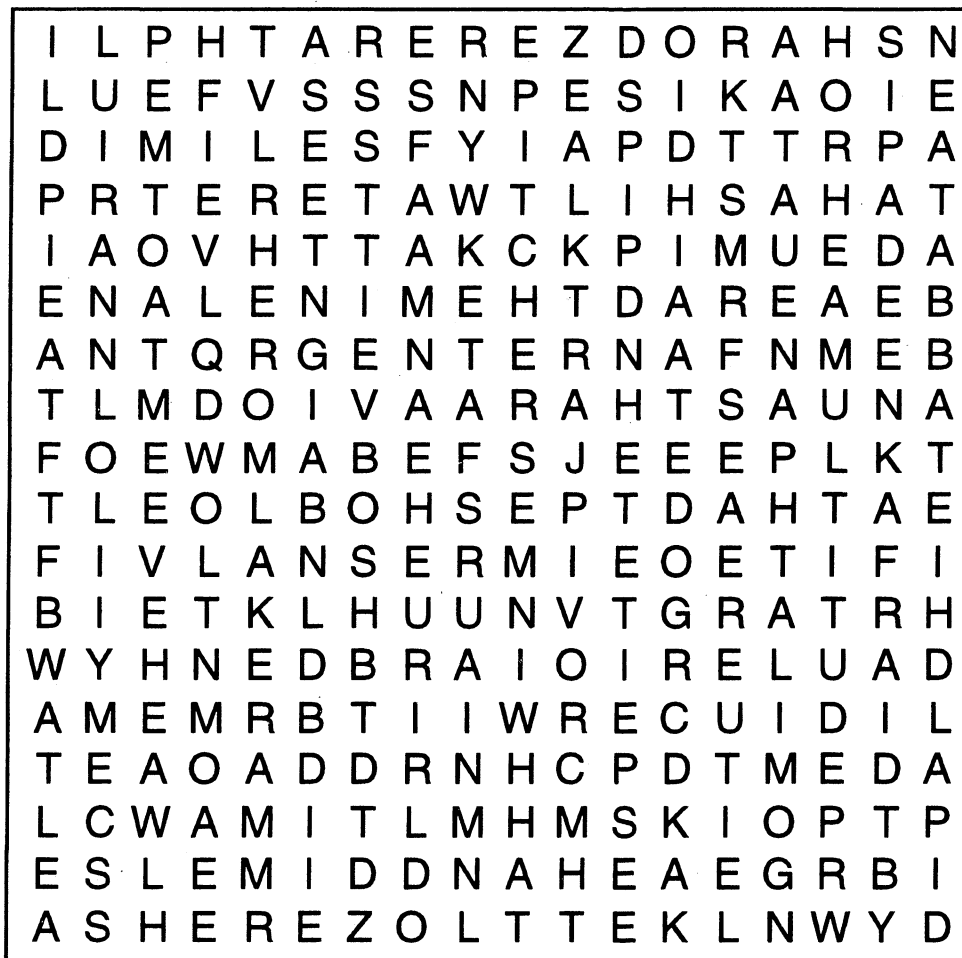
1. Discuss the memory verse.
2. Go over the definition of a lie. Reinforce that lying is a sin.
3. Ask, "Should we not lie just to avoid a punishment or should we not lie because telling the truth is the right thing to do?" Read Proverbs 6:17.

## Activity Page

### Trumpet, Empty Pitcher, Burning Torch

#### Judges 7

Find the words hidden in the puzzle below.



JERUBBAAL

GIDEON

HAROD

MIDIANITES

MOREH

VALLEY

MINE

OWN

HAND

LAP

WATER

DOG

KNEEL

PHURAH

SERVANT

AFRAID

CAMELS

MULTITUDE

SWORD

TRUMPET

PITCHER

LAMP

LORD

FLED

ZERERATH

TABBATH

NAPHTALI

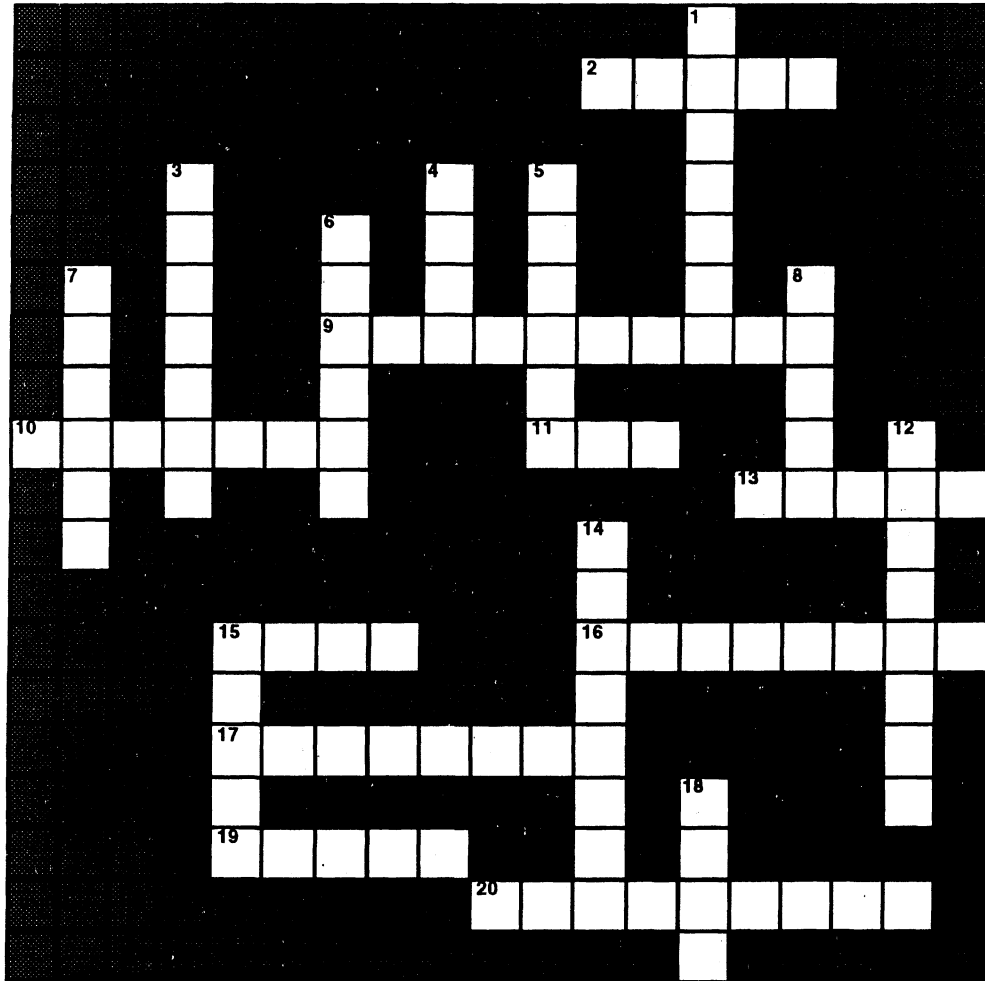
ASHER

MANASSEH

VICTORY

# Activity Page

## Trumpet, Empty Pitcher, Burning Torch Judges 7



### Across

2. The joint of the human leg between the thigh and the calf.
9. The people who tormented the Israelites (see Judges 7).
10. Full of fear.
11. Canine.
13. Images, thoughts, or emotions passing through the mind during sleep.
15. Master, ruler; one in authority.
16. Wind instrument that emits a piercing, keen tone; used by watchmen to sound an alarm in ancient Israel.
17. Ephraim and \_\_\_\_\_ (sons of Joseph; see Genesis 41).
19. A weapon with a long cutting blade attached to a handle or hilt.
20. A person who carries a message.

### Down

1. A person working in the service of another.
3. A success or triumph over your enemy.
4. Past tense of flee.
5. Filled with fear or apprehension.
6. Beasts of burden in the desert.
7. Son of Joash (see Judges 6:11).
8. The men of Naphtali, and \_\_\_\_\_, and out of Manasseh pursued after the Midianites (see Judges 7:23).
12. The sixth son of Jacob and Bilhah (see Genesis 30:7,8).
14. Containers with a lip or spout used for pouring liquids.
15. Containers with wicks used for illumination.
18. To run away from danger.

Across: 2. Knee; 9. Midianites; 10. Fearful; 11. Dog; 13. Dream; 15. Lord; 16. Trumpets; 17. Manasseh; 19. Sword; 20. Messenger. Down: 1. Servant; 3. Victory; 4. Flee; 6. Camels; 7. Gideon; 8. Asher; 12. Naphtali; 14. Pitchers; 15. Lamps; 18. Flee.

## Activity Page

### Trumpet, Empty Pitcher, Burning Torch

Judges 7



## Activity Page

### Trumpet, Empty Pitcher, Burning Torch Judges 7

Test yourself to see how much you learned about today's lesson.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. How many men did Gideon initially bring to battle against the Midianites?  
(A) 7,000 men (B) 32,000 men (C) 300 men
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. How many men departed when asked if they were afraid to fight?  
(A) 22,000 (B) 10,000 (C) None
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What was to determine which men were to go with Gideon into battle?  
(A) Their strength (B) Their fierceness (C) How they drank water
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. How many men did God allow to go into battle with Gideon?  
(A) 10,000 (B) 300 (C) 12
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. What gave Gideon the confidence he needed to go into the battle?  
(A) Lots were cast (B) An interpretation of a dream (C) An angel
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The “\_\_\_\_\_ of Gideon hath delivered the host of Midian into our hands.” Choose the word to complete the sentence.  
(A) God (B) Arm (C) Sword
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. What destroyed the tents of the Midianites in the dream that signified the Israelites' victory over the Midianites?  
(A) A huge, rolling, boulder (B) A strong, north wind (C) A barley cake
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Name the three articles that each man was to carry for against the Midianites.  
(A) Slingshot, bow, lance (B) Trumpet, lance, bow (C) Trumpet, pitcher, torch
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Which hand was to hold the torch?  
(A) Left (B) Right
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Which hand was to hold the trumpet?  
(A) Left (B) Right
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. How many of the tribes of Israel pursued the fleeing Midianites?  
(A) 12 (B) 3 (C) 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. What action did the Israelite men do *first* that terrorized the sleeping Midianites and helped create their ensuing confusion?  
(A) Shouting (B) Lighting the torches (C) Blowing the trumpets