

300



Gideon and the brave

300



Judges 6-8

Judges



- Who are judges??
- ✧ *Before king David and Solomon, God appointed Judges to guide the Israelites. They were wise, courageous and guided by the Holy Spirit.*
- Who are some famous Judges??

✧ Clue:



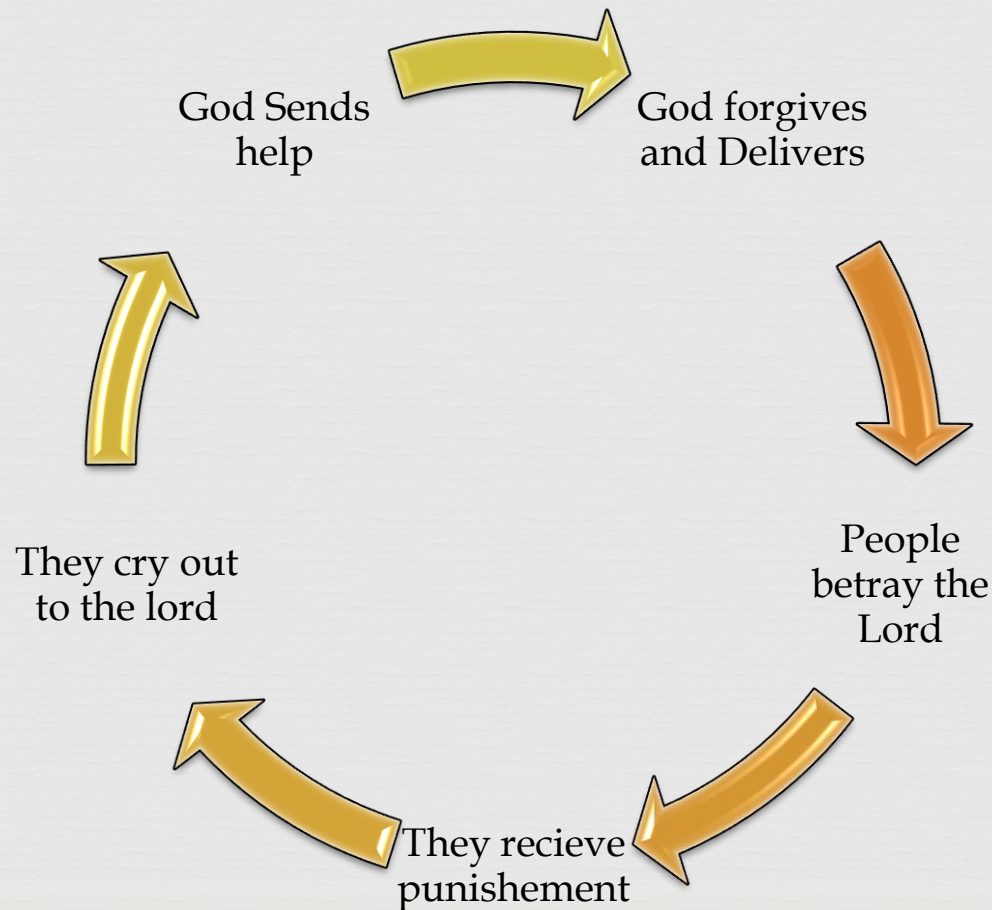
Betraying God



- The Israelites began to betray God by worshipping Idols, Baal, and forsaking God who brought them out of Egypt and delivered them to the promised land.
- Even Gideon's Father worshipped Baal and had a wooden image of him.
- As punishment for their sins, their enemies, the Midianites, stole their land, crop and animals.



The Cycle of Betrayal



God appears to Gideon



- ❧ The Lord greeted Gideon saying... *“The Lord is with you, you mighty man”*
- ❧ Gideon replied... *“If the Lord is with us why then has all this happened to us?”*

A question that we ourselves ask God everyday

- ❧ God then told Gideon that he would be the one chosen by God to save His people from their enemies
- ❧ He also comforted him by saying *“Surely, I will be with you”*

Gideon asks for a sign



- ❧ Gideon wanted to be sure that this message was truly God
- ❧ Gideon brought God an offering, goat and unleavened bread, for the Lord to eat.
- ❧ The Lord instructed Gideon to place it on the rock. The Lord then touched the rock with His staff and fire rose from the rock and consumed the offering.
- ❧ This ensured Gideon that He was truly God and thus he believed His words.

God's Request



- ❧ God asked Gideon to destroy the idols of Baal and after take a bull and offer sacrifice to God.
- ❧ That SAME night, Gideon took 10 men and destroyed the idols, broke Baal's alter and burnt the wooden images of him.
- ❧ In the morning when everyone arose, they wanted to kill him... However his father stood up for him and said; *"If Baal is truly god, he would defend himself"*
- ❧ So all the enemies of Israel came together to wage war on Gideon and the Israelites

Gideon's War



- ✧ When the enemies of Israel rose war against them, Gideon was not afraid, knowing that God is with him, he sounded the trumpets gathered his people and declared war.
- ✧ However, once again, Gideon wanted to be sure that God will deliver them and help them in the war, so again he asked God for a sign.

Wet/Dry Wool



- ❧ First, he placed a fleece of wool outside and asked God to make the fleece wet and all the ground around it dry. So it happened that when he woke it was so.
- ❧ Then, he asked God, this time make the fleece dry and all the ground around it wet, and again it was so.
- ❧ Therefore Gideon was SURE that God was with them and hence will deliver them from their enemies

The Glory be to God

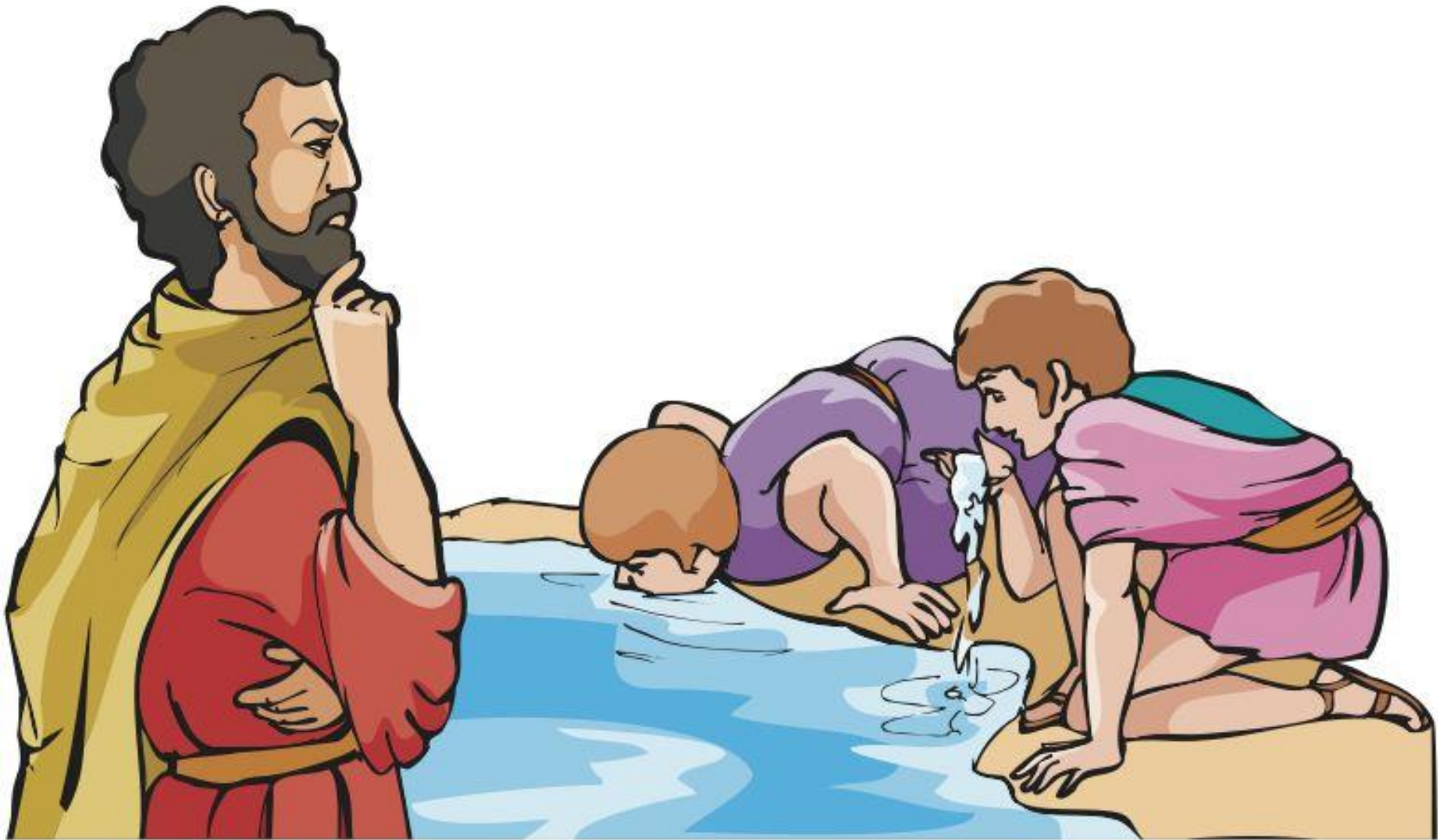


- ☞ God saw that those who followed Gideon were many, and He did NOT want them to think that they won this war due to their great numbers and power, but rather to know that it was God who delivered them because of His mercy and love for them.
- ☞ So God asked Gideon to make his army smaller.

Discerning his army



- ❧ So Gideon asked his army... "those who are afraid, return to your homes" 22,000 went home.
- ❧ But still the number remaining was too many, so God asked Gideon to take them to drink water, and those who lap with their tongues like dogs or those who get down on their knees to drink, send them back.
- ❧ Only those who bring the water up with their hands to their mouth Gideon took.
- ❧ ONLY 300!!!!



Why??



- ❧ Why did God only chose the ones who kept their head up?? Was it random??
- ❧ *The people who lapped i.e. stayed standing and simply lapped the water with their hands and raised it to their mouth symbolises the Christian who remains watchful. Those on their knees have limited vision as their faces look downwards, however those standing can see the enemy coming and can therefore fight him.*

Eavesdrop



☞ God told Gideon to take Purah and go down to the camp, for *"I have delivered it into your hand"*

☞ When Gideon arrived he heard a man telling his companion about a dream that he had...

"A loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed"

His companion said: "This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp."

Victory in War



- ❧ Gideon gave everyman of the 300 a trumpet and a torch, inside an empty pitcher
- ❧ They all surrounded the camp of the enemy, when Gideon blew his trumpet, all the men blew their trumpets and broke their pitchers.
- ❧ Then they ran towards them and yelled... *“The sword of the Lord and of Gideon”*
- ❧ The enemy was so scared that they all ran and Gideon and the people of Israel won the war and were delivered from their enemies once again through the grace of God.



Correlation to our spiritual lives

- ✧ God is able to deliver us from our enemies, but we need to rely on Him and Him alone.
- ✧ *“Its better to put your trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man” (Psalm 118:8)*
- ✧ God came immediately to the help of His children the Israelites once they asked for His help
- ✧ This is the same way that He treats us. If we ask for His help, He will always be there to help us and save us from all evil things.
- ✧ God is the one who gives triumph and victory to his children. He chose Gideon and was with him all the way



Discussion... Why Gideon??



Glory Be to God!