



**GIDEON**

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FAMILY DEVOS

# Only 300

**Scripture:** Judges 7:1-8

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 46:1

“God is our refuge and strength,  
A very present help in trouble.”

## For My Family

Gideon and 32,000 warriors assembled in the Jezreel Valley and were preparing for war. They were outnumbered by a huge amount. Verse 12 tells us that the Midianites, Amalekites, and people of the east were like grains of sand at the sea shore, too numerous to be counted. What could 32,000 do against such a great army as that? The Lord again saw things differently than we do. Gideon I am sure looked at his army and wished for more troops. God looked at the assembled force and said, “There are too many.” The Lord would not allow the Israelites to believe that they were responsible for any victories that were won. He needed them to know that He Himself had saved them so that they would turn away from the Baals and turn back to worship Him. The Lord would leave no doubt that the glory would be His alone.

“Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead,” the Lord told Gideon, and 22,000 men turned around and went home. 22,000 gone just like that. What could 10,000 men do against such a great army as that? Gideon must have thought, “Surely 10,000 men is too few, but the Lord had promised He would save Israel so that’s okay, but I sure would have loved to have had those other 22,000 men.” The Lord once again looked at Gideon’s troops and said, “There are still too many.” He gave Gideon a test. When they went down to the water to drink, anyone who lapped the water with their hand to their mouth would be set apart, and 300 men were selected and put to the side. Gideon must have been relieved. Only 300 more men would be sent home. He still had most of the 10,000 troops left... but no, the Lord said that by the 300 alone would Israel be saved, and He sent the 9,700 home. Gideon went from an army of 32,000 to a team of 300, and he was expected to defeat the great Midianite army?

Sometimes it can be difficult to understand what God is doing, and sometimes it even feels like He is making things more difficult for us than they need to be. God was showing Gideon that even though he had been chosen as God’s vessel to carry out God’s plan, it was very important that when the victory came, everybody knew that it could only have come from God. Sometimes God takes things away from us to help us to realize how important He is. For example, right now our lives have been stripped back to the bare essentials. The Lord has temporarily separated us from our friends, our schools, our relatives, even our churches

and our jobs. We might think about how much easier it would be if we could still have all of those things, and yet, just like Gideon, we need to be shown that the Lord Himself is enough. If He is on our side, and He is, then by His strength we can overcome any obstacle or problem, and He will receive all of the glory.

### **Questions for Young Children:**

How many soldiers did Gideon have at he start?

How many soldiers did Gideon have at the end?

Why did God ask so many men to go home and only leave Gideon with 300?

### **Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:**

What are some things that social distancing have forced us to do without?

Has God shown you that there was anything in your life that was more important than it should have been now that we don't have them? What are those things?

What has God been showing you are the most important things in your life?  
How has He been showing you that?