



GIDEON

FAMILY DEVOS

The Victory

Scripture: Judges 7:9-23

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.”

For My Family

The Lord had chosen His army of 300 men to be lead by Gideon. Now finally He spoke to Gideon and told Him to go up against that great army of the Midianites because He had given them into their hands. But the Lord still knew the heart of Gideon. He knew that Gideon struggled with fear and doubt, so He graciously encouraged Gideon one last time. “If you are afraid,” the Lord said. Well, of course Gideon was afraid! He only had an army of 300 against an army too big to even count! After hearing that he would be encouraged and strengthened, Gideon went down to spy on his enemy...

...And they were afraid of *him!* Wouldn't you know that God had been working unseen this whole time. The Lord had been giving the Midianites bad dreams and putting the fear of Gideon right into their very hearts. Gideon, a man who had been afraid of everything and everyone in our story, was now the object of terror for those same people of whom he had been scared.

What was Gideon's response to this gracious encouragement from the Lord? He worshipped. Gideon praised and worshipped God, who had given him everything he needed and who had even been working on his behalf and preparing the way. When Gideon realized just how involved God was and how much He was doing to support and strengthen him, Gideon worshipped.

Gideon and his men went into the camp of the Midianites secretly at night, broke their pots, shined their lamps, and played their trumpets. That's right, the 300 men that God chose didn't do one bit of fighting, they simply obeyed the Lord and watched as the Lord confused the Midianites and made them fight amongst themselves.

The Lord brought victory to Gideon and the Israelites. He was actually working behind the scenes throughout this whole story, preparing not only Gideon's heart to help him to trust in God, but also by working on the hearts of the enemy.

God is working for us too. Sometimes it's hard to see God's hand move, and we start to struggle with doubt and worry. Right now, God is moving on our behalf. He is doing things that are so great that we couldn't even understand them if we tried. Our job is to hear His voice, trust in His promises and obey His word. When we do that He encourages us and strengthens us.

Questions for Young Children:

What did God show Gideon to encourage him?

What had the Lord done to the Midianites to make them afraid?

What did the Israelites do to win the battle?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Gideon was prone to worry and fear. How did God show grace to Gideon in the lead up to the battle?

How does God giving the Midianites dreams and nightmares help us to trust the Lord?

What were the key things that God wanted from Gideon?