

Gideon's Battle Role Play

Props

- ☐ Battle Torches (Hands-On activity)
- ☐ Party horns
- ☐ Large plastic cups or paper lunch bags
- ☐ Optional: One or two sheets and four to eight chairs for tents

Instructions

Divide the class into three groups. One will be Gideon's army, the other two will be the Midianites camping out in the middle of the room. Have the Midianites either

pretend to set up camp or use four chairs back to back and throw a sheet over them to set up each tent.

Choose a student to be Gideon. Have the cups/bags, torches they made, and horns all in one place for Gideon's army to grab during the role play.

Use the following script, pausing to allow students to repeat their lines and act out their roles. If there is time, allow students to change roles and act it out again.

Optional: give all students a party horn, a cup or bag, and their own torch to take home.

Gideon's Battle Script

Have Midianites and Gideon's army begin on opposite sides of the room.

The Midianites were enemies of the Israelites.

(Midianites move to center of the room, looking mean and tough.) They would swoop into the land and devour all the food. Then they set up camp by the hill of Moreh in the valley. (Midianites set up tents and sit down beside them acting like they're eating all the food.)

Meanwhile, Gideon and his army were on the hill above where they could look down at the Midianite camp and see their huge army spread out through the valley.

Gideon called his 300 men to him and divided them into three groups of 100. *(Have Gideon divide his army into three groups.)*

Each man was given three things: a trumpet, a torch, and a jar. *(Have Gideon's army grab a cup or bag, a party horn, and the torches they made.)*

That evening, they took the trumpets and hid their torches inside the jars so they couldn't be seen and followed Gideon. *(Have Gideon's army place cups/bags upside down over their torches.)*

After the Midianites had settled down for the night (Midianites lie down to sleep), Gideon told his men the plan. "When you hear my trumpet sound, that's your signal to blow your trumpets, too." *(Have Gideon repeat the line.)*

In the dark of night, Gideon and his men spread out all around the enemy camp. *(Have the army sneak around to surround the Midianites.)*

When they were all in place, Gideon blew his trumpet and smashed the jar holding his torch, letting the light shine brightly in the night. *(Have Gideon drop the cup/bag, hold up his torch, and blow party horn.)*

That was the signal! Gideon's men all did the same thing together. *(Have army drop cups/bags, hold up torches, and blow party horns together.)* **Suddenly, the Midianites were surrounded by torches and the sound of trumpets. Then they heard a great shout, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"** *(Have army repeat.)*

The Midianites cried out, "We're surrounded! Let's get out of here!" **God made them panic, and they tried to run.** *(Midianites run into each other, acting confused or pretending to die.)*

Gideon and his men chased the Midianites, and men from other Israelite tribes came out to help. *(Have Midianites run across/around the room with Gideon's army chasing them.)* **The Midianites were defeated!** *(Gideon's army shouts, "Hooray!")*

What a battle! This was a great miracle showing God's power to save his people.