

GIDEON:

The Smallest Warrior
with the Biggest God



T.M. Cocklin



**Long ago, in the
land of Israel, there
lived a man named
Gideon.**

**He wasn't a soldier
or a king—he was
just a farmer.**



But times were very hard. The Midianites, a cruel enemy, would steal all the food and animals every harvest season, leaving the people afraid and hungry.



**One day, Gideon
was secretly
threshing wheat in
a winepress, hiding
from the
Midianites, when
a bright light
appeared!**



An angel of the Lord sat under a nearby tree and said,

“The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!”



Gideon looked around, confused. “Me? Mighty warrior? I’m the smallest person in my family, and my family is the weakest in our tribe!”



**But the angel
smiled and said,
“Go in the
strength you have.
God will be with
you, and you will
save Israel from
the Midianites.”**



**Gideon wasn't sure.
“If this is really true,
please give me a
sign!”**

**So he brought an
offering of meat
and bread. The
angel touched it
with his staff, and—
whoosh!—fire came
up from the rock and
burned it all!**

**Now Gideon knew
that God had spoken
to him.**



That night, God spoke to Gideon again.

“Tear down your father’s altar to Baal and the pole to Asherah beside it. Build an altar to Me instead.”



Gideon was afraid, but he obeyed. Late that night, he took ten servants and quietly pulled down the false gods.



In the morning, the townspeople were angry!

“Who did this?” they shouted.

When they found out it was Gideon, they wanted to punish him.



**But Gideon’s
father, Joash,
said,
“If Baal is a god,
let him defend
himself!”**

**And from then on,
Gideon was called
Jerub-Baal, which
means “Let Baal
fight for himself.”**



**Soon after,
the Midianites
and their allies
gathered an
enormous army
to attack Israel.
Gideon was scared
again.**



He prayed,
“God, if You really want
me to rescue Israel,
please show me a sign.”

He put a sheep’s fleece
on the ground and said,

“If the fleece is wet with
dew but the ground is
dry, I’ll know You are
with me.”

The next morning, it was
exactly so!



But Gideon still wasn't sure, so he asked again,

“Please, Lord, don't be angry. Let the fleece be dry and the ground wet this time.”

The next morning—it happened exactly that way. Now Gideon knew for certain that God was with him.



**Gideon gathered
32,000 men to
fight. But God
said,**

**“That’s too many!
If you win with so
many soldiers,
you’ll think you
did it yourself.”**



**So Gideon sent
home all the men
who were afraid.
Now there were
10,000 left.
God said again,
“Still too many!”**



God told Gideon to take the men to the river to drink water.

Some men knelt down and drank like dogs, but others cupped water in their hands and drank while staying alert.

God said,

“Keep only the 300 men who drank with their hands.”



**Three hundred
soldiers against
a giant army
of thousands?
Gideon couldn't
believe it—but he
trusted God.**



That night, God told Gideon to sneak to the enemy camp. There he overheard a soldier say,

“I had a dream—a loaf of bread rolled into our camp and knocked down our tent!”

Another soldier said, “That dream means Gideon will defeat us!”



**Encouraged, Gideon
ran back and
shouted,**

**“Get up! The
Lord has given us
victory!”**

**He divided his 300
men into three
groups.**



Each man carried a torch, a clay jar, and a trumpet.

At Gideon's signal, they broke their jars, blew their trumpets, and shouted:

“A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!”



The enemy camp was thrown into confusion. They turned on each other and fled into the night!

Without lifting a real sword, Gideon's tiny army had won through God's power.




After the battle, the Israelites wanted to make Gideon their king.

But Gideon said, “No, the Lord will rule over you.”



**He knew it wasn't
his strength that
saved Israel—it was
God's.**

**From that day on,
people remembered
that with God, even
the smallest person
can do great things.**



Gideon's story teaches us:

- God can use anyone, no matter how small or afraid.
- Obedience and faith are stronger than fear.
- The real victory always belongs to God.