

Activity: Big picture

Hide all the pieces of a jigsaw around the room or home if wanting to make it more difficult. Go searching to find all the pieces and bring them to a central area. To make it a competition compete two family members against one another with two different jigsaws and see who can find the pieces and put the jigsaw together first. Today we will hear about how important tiny parts are when when they all come together to create a bigger picture.

Craft: Flame torch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2M5A8E5QAHs>

Watch: Watch the story of Gideon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U68cIMZSgvQ>

Story: Judges 6-8

The Israelites (God's people) turned away from God and they fell into the hands of their enemies, the Midianites. The Israelites went into hiding. God said he would send someone to rescue his people, this man was Gideon and at the beginning of this story he is hiding too. God sent an angel to visit Gideon and tell him that he was to be the one to rescue Israel and beat the Midianites. The angel said to Gideon "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." Gideon was surprised. It didn't feel like God was with his people at all. But God said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel." Gideon was not sure - he didn't feel like a mighty warrior. Gideon asked God for a sign that he really was going to use him to rescue Israel. He said to God that he would leave a fleece (a rug of sheep's wool) out on the floor overnight and if the fleece was wet and the ground dry the next morning, he would know it really was going to happen. So God did that. Then Gideon asked for another sign, this time he wanted the fleece to be dry and the ground to be wet. And God did that too. So Gideon called the army together. There were thousands and thousands of them. But God knew that if they defeated Midian with a huge army, Israel would think they had done it themselves so he told Gideon to send home anyone who was frightened - and 22000 men left, leaving 10 000. God still thought that was too many. God told Gideon to take the men down to the river to drink. Any that lifted the water in their hands and lapped like dogs were to be kept. There were only 300 who did that and the rest were sent home. Gideon knew they could never beat Midian with so few men but he trusted God. God knew that Gideon was frightened so he told him to creep down into the enemy camp at night and listen to what was happening. The whole valley floor was covered with the enemy camp. Gideon and his servant crept up to a tent and listened. They could hear an enemy soldier telling his friend about a dream he'd had where a round loaf of bread came and squashed their tents. His friend said that it must mean that Israel was going to defeat them. Gideon felt brave when he heard this! He went back to his men and divided them into three groups. He gave each man a trumpet and a jar with a flaming torch inside. He placed his men around the Midian camp and told them to follow his lead and blow their trumpets and shout "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" When the Midianites heard the trumpets they panicked, some ran away and the rest started fighting and killing each other. So Gideon and the Israelites won the victory.

Reflection:

Think about situations where you feel small or as if you are facing a big army. God will be with you in those situations, let's ask Him together. An adult must light a candle and stay with child. Lighting a candle is sign that God hears your prayer and will be with you. Make sure you place the burning candle somewhere safe... and make sure that you have an adult with you.