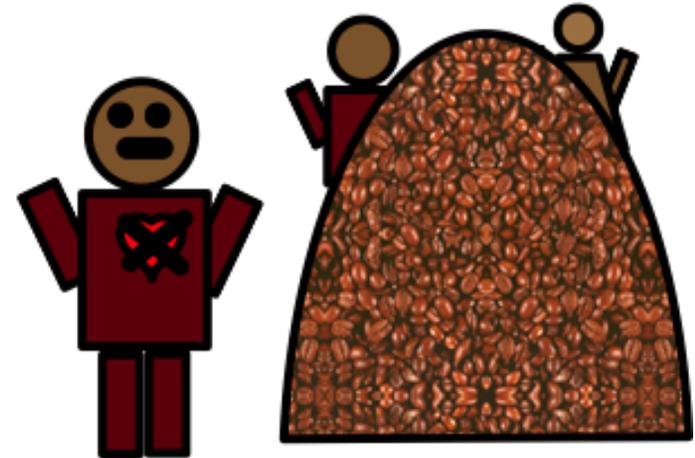


Gideon

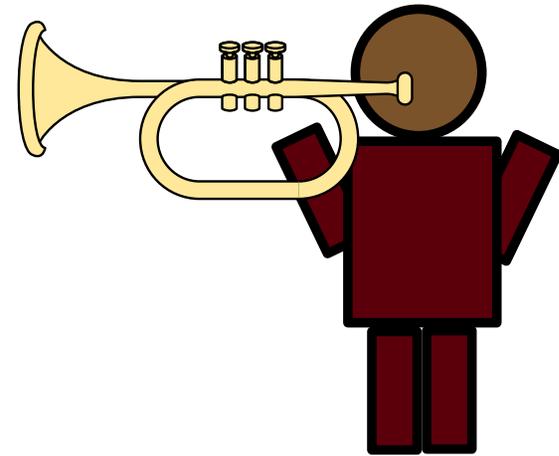
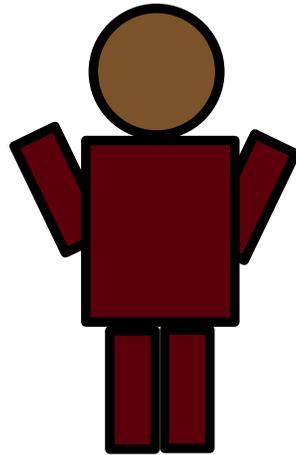


Judges 6 & 7
New International
Reader's Version



The Midianites treated the people of Israel very badly. That's why they made hiding places for themselves. They hid in holes in the mountains. They also hid in caves and in other safe places.

Each year the people planted their crops. When they did, the Midianites came into the country and attacked it.

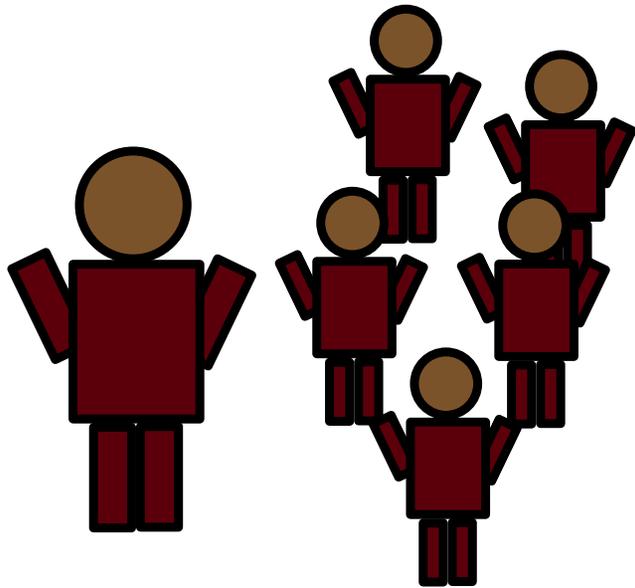


The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon. He said, "Mighty warrior, the Lord is with you."

The Lord turned to Gideon. He said to him, "You are strong. Go and save Israel from the power of Midian. I am sending you."

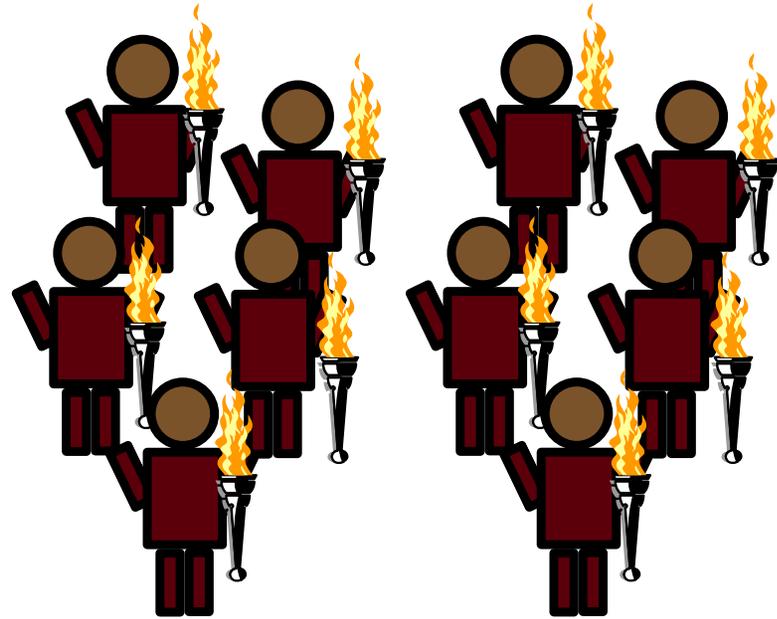
The Lord answered, "I will be with you. So you will strike down the men of Midian all at one time."

Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon. So Gideon blew the trumpet to send for the men of Abiezer. He told them to follow him. He sent messengers all through Manasseh. He called for the men of Manasseh to fight. He also sent messengers to the men of Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali. So all of those men went up to join the others.



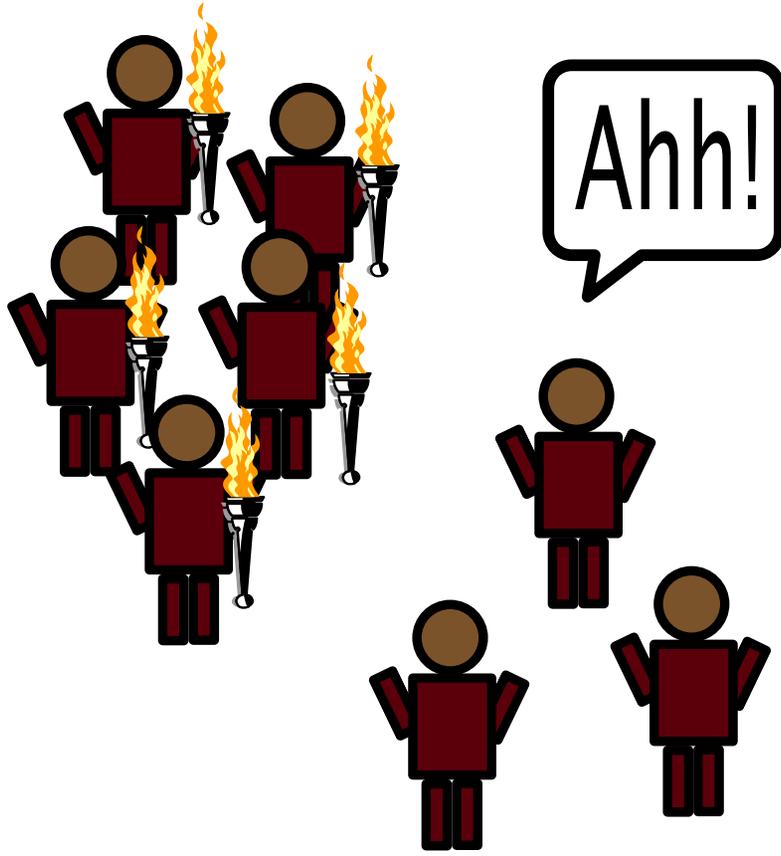
The Lord spoke to Gideon. He said, "I want to hand Midian over to you. But you have too many men for me to do that."

The Lord spoke to Gideon. He said, "With the help of the 300 men who lapped up the water I will save you. I will hand the Midianites over to you. Let all of the other men go home."



Then Gideon worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel. He called out, "Get up! The Lord has handed the Midianites over to you."

The three companies blew their trumpets. They smashed their jars. They held their torches in their left hands. They held in their right hands the trumpets they were going to blow. Then they shouted the battle cry, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"



Each man stayed in his position around the camp. But all of the Midianites ran away in fear. They were crying out as they ran.