

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 22, 2018



### BIBLE STORY FOR PRESCHOOLERS:

Judges 6–8

### BIBLE VERSE:

*Judges 6:16a*

### BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*God helped Gideon know what to do.*

### YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*We can always trust God.*

### OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*We grow in our faith by being obedient to God.*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*1 Corinthians 13:4*

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *2 Corinthians 1:8-11*

**MONDAY:** *2 Corinthians 1:12-22*

**TUESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 1:23–2:4*

**WEDNESDAY:** *2 Corinthians 2:5-11*

**THURSDAY:** *2 Corinthians 2:12-17*

**FRIDAY:** *2 Corinthians 3:1-6*

**SATURDAY:** *2 Corinthians 3:7-11*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *Judges* and *1 Corinthians* together as a family:



- **God will make Himself great.** Gideon was from what he called the weakest clan in Israel. God called Gideon, but Gideon was unsure that he could do what God was calling him to do. As we have already learned, God gives unique gifts to those He calls. It was no different for Gideon. Gideon called together an army as had previous judges. There is a marked difference in this account than in the account of Deborah and Barak. Gideon secured an army of 30,000 men who answered his call; three times more than Barak. But, Gideon's army was too large for God. Through a series of tests, the army was reduced to only 300 men. There was no doubt once the battle ended that God's greatness, not the army of Gideon, secured the victory.
- **Obedience grows faith.** Though Gideon struggled at first to complete God's call, he began to trust God completely as his faith grew. By the end of Gideon's story, we see that Gideon's faith in God allowed God to defeat the Midianites without Gideon or his men even raising their swords. In total confusion, the Midianites attacked themselves. Gideon and his men pursued those who fled on foot and won the battle.
- **Understanding love.** Paul told the Corinthian church that the gifts God gives to further His kingdom are to be used with love. Paul spends a lot of time explaining the characteristics of true love. True love is characterized as patient, kind, not boastful, not rude, not selfish, and not arrogant. Believers who use their spiritual gifts through love will make a greater impact for the kingdom. Paul said that without love, spiritual gifts are useless.
- **Love for God.** Gideon grew in his understanding of Who God is, and as Gideon's love for God grew along with his faith, Gideon successfully fulfilled God's task. Believers today grow in their love and understanding of God and use the gifts God has given to impact others for God's kingdom.