

# GOD GIVES EXTRAORDINARY PEACE

**CROSSOVER**  
FROM EVERYDAY TO EXTRAORDINARY

Week 1 – Elementary  
Additional Resources for Parents

**QUESTION: Come Again?**

**Have you ever been told to do something, but you were not sure what you heard?** Maybe you were confused about the directions, or maybe you really couldn't hear at all, but you knew it was important?

**ACTIVITY: Dance Battle**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Type the name of different dance moves and print them. Cut the paper into strips and place them into a bag. Play fun music while the kids try to do the dance moves. Some dance moves suggestions include walking after rollerblading, hula hooping, karate kid, fried chicken sizzle, flossing, etc. Tell the kids to share the name of the dance move they picked after they do the moves for ten seconds.

That dance battle was kind of hard, wasn't it? If you didn't know the name of the dance move, you wouldn't have known what you were doing! This month, we are starting a new series called, "Crossover," where everyday people were able to do extraordinary things, because they heard God speak and listened to what God said.

**SCRIPTURE: Judges 6**

*Gideon*

**6** *The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. <sup>2</sup>Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. <sup>3</sup>Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. <sup>4</sup>They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. <sup>5</sup>They came up with their livestock*

and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. <sup>6</sup> Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the LORD for help.

<sup>7</sup> When the Israelites cried out to the LORD because of Midian, <sup>8</sup> he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>9</sup> I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. <sup>10</sup> I said to you, 'I am the LORD your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."

<sup>11</sup> The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup> When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

<sup>13</sup> "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."

<sup>14</sup> The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

<sup>15</sup> "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

<sup>16</sup> The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."

<sup>17</sup> Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. <sup>18</sup> Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you."

And the LORD said, "I will wait until you return."

<sup>19</sup> Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah<sup>[a]</sup> of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak.

<sup>20</sup> The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so. <sup>21</sup> Then the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the LORD disappeared. <sup>22</sup> When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

<sup>23</sup> But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."

<sup>24</sup> So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

<sup>25</sup> That same night the LORD said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old.<sup>[b]</sup> Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole<sup>[c]</sup> beside it. <sup>26</sup> Then build a proper kind of<sup>[d]</sup> altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second<sup>[e]</sup> bull as a burnt offering."

<sup>27</sup> So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the townspeople, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.

<sup>28</sup> In the morning when the people of the town got up, there was Baal's altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar!

<sup>29</sup> They asked each other, "Who did this?"

When they carefully investigated, they were told, "Gideon son of Joash did it."

<sup>30</sup> The people of the town demanded of Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it."

<sup>31</sup> But Joash replied to the hostile crowd around him, "Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you trying to save him? Whoever fights for him shall be put to death by morning! If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar." <sup>32</sup> So because Gideon broke

down Baal's altar, they gave him the name Jerub-Baal<sup>[1]</sup> that day, saying, "Let Baal contend with him."

<sup>33</sup> Now all the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples joined forces and crossed over the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel. <sup>34</sup> Then the Spirit of the LORD came on Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. <sup>35</sup> He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, so that they too went up to meet them.

<sup>36</sup> Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised— <sup>37</sup> look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." <sup>38</sup> And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.

<sup>39</sup> Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew." <sup>40</sup> That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Summarize the Bible story from Judges 6. Here is one way you can do this:

Today's Bible story comes from the book of Judges, chapter 6. This story is about a man named Gideon. Gideon was an Israelite, which means he was a part of God's special family. At this time, the Israelites were really struggling with worshipping idols rather than just God. Does anyone know what an idol is? Yeah, it's something you worship instead of God.

The golden calf is the most famous one, which Moses had to teach the Israelites to stop worshipping, but there are others throughout history, as well. Worshipping idols does not make God happy, and God was very angry with the Israelites. As a consequence of their actions, the Israelites spent a long time being ruled by a group of people called the Midianites.

God appeared to Gideon and said Gideon was going to be used to free the Israelites from the Midianites. Gideon wasn't so sure, though. So, Gideon asked God to prove it.

First, Gideon set out a fleece skin and asked God to make the fleece skin wet with dew, but keep all the ground under it and around it dry. Gideon figured that if God did that, then Gideon would take it as a sign that God was going to do as promised and help Gideon free the Israelites. Guess what happened? If your guess was that the fleece got wet, but the ground stayed dry, you are exactly right!

But Gideon still wasn't sure, so the next night he asked God to do the opposite. This time, Gideon wanted the fleece to be dry and the ground to be wet. Guess what? God did exactly what Gideon asked! Knowing God was really and truly on

his side, Gideon decided to call together an army of Israelites to fight beside him.

### **OBJECT LESSON: Full of Faith**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place two plastic water bottles, with the labels removed, in front of the kids. Show them that one is full and the other is empty. The water inside the full bottle represents faith. The full bottle is full of faith while the other bottle is empty and has no faith. You'll demonstrate what happens when you hit the empty (faithless) water bottle with a solid downward smack from the top: it will become smashed and destroyed. Then, you'll demonstrate what happens when you hit the full (faith filled) water bottle: it might have a little damage, but it still stands and can be used.*

We've got two bottles here, one full and one empty. Today, water is representing faith, so this bottle here is full of faith and this one has no faith at all. We're going to see how these bottles hold up to tough stuff. Okay, first I'm going to have a go at this bottle that has no faith at all. Ready... set... kerplow! Oh, no! The bottle is totally smushed and busted! Okay, now I'm going to try the same thing with the bottle that's full of faith. Ready... set... kerplow! Hey! Look at this! It got a little dent, but I think it's still fine!

God wanted Gideon to lead, and even though Gideon needed a little reassurance from God, he had faith. It is okay to sometimes need a little extra peace from God when it comes to doing something brave. But it is important to remember that we should have faith and God will give us the extraordinary peace and strength to tackle whatever comes our way.

### **REFLECTION: What Will I Do For God?**

God had a specific plan and job for Gideon to do. And guess what? God has a specific plan and job for you, too!

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out blank pieces of paper and have the child draw a picture of himself/herself as what they want to be when they grow up. Maybe you want to be a teacher, a doctor, a musician, a missionary, a firefighter, a parent, an astronaut, a ballet dancer, a veterinarian... Maybe you want to be a lot of different things! Maybe you don't know what it is God wants you to do. That's totally okay! You're not alone in that feeling! We can always pray to God for a little guidance to help you discover what God wants you to do.