

A MAN in a HOLE

Read: Judges 6-8

GIDEON (a man who lived during the time of the Old Testament) **FELT LIKE A NOTHING.**

See, for seven years the Israelites had been under the control of the Midianites. In fact, the Midianites were so mean that the Israelites ran to the mountains and hid in caves and rocky places so the Midianites couldn't find them.

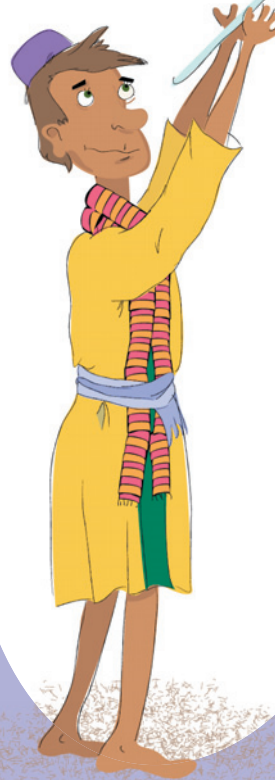
THE ISRAELITES WERE SCARED. Once again (as was their habit), **THEY FORGOT ALL ABOUT TRUSTING THE LORD.** And once again (as was their habit), when things got super bad they cried out for the Lord's help.

The Lord (via a prophet) reminded them, "I'm the One who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves. I'm the One who delivered you from your enemies. I even drove them out and gave you their land – but still you will not listen to Me."

Joash was an Israelite, a poor farmer, and Joash had a son named Gideon, **BUT GIDEON HAD A PROBLEM.**

One day Gideon was threshing wheat in the grape press. Now maybe that doesn't sound very silly to you, because you don't understand wheat threshing. Threshing in those days consisted of separating the kernels of grain from the chaff (the seed coverings). This often was done by having oxen stomp on it. The next step was throwing the grain into the air with long forks. The chaff would blow away in the wind, and the grain would fall to the ground.

A grape press is usually a hole dug in the ground or in the side of a rocky mountain. Think about it – how much wind is there in a place like that? Not much, right? So we can be sure Gideon was having problems successfully completing his job. I don't imagine he was feeling too brave doing a job that's supposed to be done in the open air – **DOWN IN A HOLE.** Can't you imagine him



looking around, praying no Midianites would see him work? **GIDEON HAD A PROBLEM.**

But as he was working, an angel of the Lord appeared, sat down under a tree and said, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of strength."

Did Gideon have strength? Remember, he was standing down in a hole, looking around in fear. He certainly didn't look strong and courageous.

Right **AWAY**, Gideon began to argue **BECAUSE GIDEON HAD A PROBLEM:**

"If the Lord is with us, then why is all this stuff happening with the Midianites? What about all those stories I heard about being rescued from Egypt? Now we're in the hands of still another enemy?"

Gideon was **NOT** expecting the Lord's answer. "Go in your strength and power and be the one who saves Israel from the Midianites!"

"Me?" Gideon couldn't believe what he was hearing. "How can I do it? My family is the weakest in the entire tribe of Manasseh, and I'm the most untalented in my family."

But the Lord told Gideon, "You will defeat the Midianites as one man."

WHAT HAPPENED?

Continued on next page.

EVER WONDER WHERE HOT DOGS COME FROM, WHO THOUGHT OF THEM, AND WHAT THEY'RE MADE OF?

WE DID A LITTLE RESEARCH. HERE'S WHAT WE FOUND!

Some people say that the hot dog was created in Germany. Others say it came from Austria.

The Germans say that the hot dog was created in the late 1600s by a butcher named Johann Georghehner.

People who live in Vienna, Austria say that the hot dog was created in 1487. They celebrated the 500th birthday of the hot dog in 1987.

In the late 1800s, hot dogs made their way to America and became a popular treat at baseball games.



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If you don't know the rest of Gideon's bio, read Judges 6-8.

GOD DID USE HIM – IN SPITE OF HIS PROBLEM.

God wants to use you, too – maybe not to lead an army, but in other ways ...

- To reflect God's love to a relative who hasn't trusted Jesus Christ.
- To invite your friend to church.
- To do the best job possible in school.
- To help your Awana leader stack chairs so the room is ready for club.
- To show love and honor to your dad and mom.

ARE YOU WILLING TO ALLOW THE LORD TO USE YOU? THINK ABOUT IT.

Ha! Ha! Ha!

What kind of dog can you eat?
A hot dog.

In what school do you learn how to make ice cream?
Sundae school.

What kind of an apple has a short temper?
A crab apple.



FIND THE JUDGES!

There were 16 judges who ruled over the Israelites.
Find all the judges in this word search.

- OTHNIEL
- EHUD
- SHAMGAR
- DEBORAH
- BARAK
- GIDEON
- ABIMELECH
- TOLA
- JAIR
- JEPHTHAH
- IBZAN
- ELON
- ABDON
- SAMSON
- ELI
- SAMUEL

N	O	K	F	W	X	D	D	Y	I	H	Y	K	T	D	W	V	U	S
E	O	T	N	O	E	D	I	G	U	N	V	A	E	L	X	R	A	H
C	W	S	H	R	M	B	E	H	A	M	X	B	H	E	R	O	W	A
X	O	M	M	N	U	Y	W	W	U	P	O	E	F	U	G	S	D	M
M	V	M	I	A	I	E	P	H	T	R	Z	H	J	M	N	H	X	G
A	P	S	R	W	S	E	C	O	A	Z	Z	U	U	A	Z	U	L	A
B	Z	B	S	Z	V	E	L	H	A	V	W	D	O	S	C	F	K	R
E	K	F	O	L	L	A	P	P	B	B	M	G	K	H	V	E	A	S
I	A	O	K	E	I	B	Z	A	N	D	D	R	I	A	J	S	M	W
E	A	H	M	R	A	M	U	M	P	W	Q	O	F	T	O	K	R	K
A	R	I	K	H	R	Z	R	E	I	P	O	K	N	L	W	D	O	T
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T	N	X	T	H	Y	S	H	B	A	O	K	T	F	P	E	V	Y	P
C	X	M	E	R	O	W	K	B	X	Z	E	W	N	V	R	E	X	P
P	G	J	S	T	Q	J	E	P	H	T	H	A	H	O	R	P	W	L
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