Gideon's Surprise Attack

Biblical Drama based on Judges 7:1-23 — Character Parts: Narrator 1-7, God, Gideon, Army

Narrator 1: In the days of the Judges, the Midianites were the enemies of God's people. They had stolen the Israelites' land and driven them into the hills. So God called Gideon to lead his people in war. Thirty-two thousand Israelites came to join Gideon's army.

God: Gideon, you have too many soldiers in your army.

Gideon: Lord, isn't it a good thing to have many?

God: No. For if I were to let you win against the Midianites with all these men, the soldiers of Israel would take the credit from me, saying, "We won the victory on our own."

Gideon: So what should I do?

God: Go to the troops and say: "Whoever is afraid to go into battle, let him return home."

Gideon: Well, that makes sense.

Narrator 2: So Gideon told the army what God said. Twenty-two thousand men left and returned home. Only ten thousand remained. Gideon was shocked. But the Lord still wasn't satisfied.

Gideon: I'm not sure that was a good idea.

God: You are right. The troops are still too many. If they were victorious with ten thousand men, they would still think that they won the battle by their own power.

Gideon: I hate to ask, Lord. What should I do?

God: Take the men down to the water and I will sift them out for you there. When I say, "This one shall go with you," he shall go with you; and when I say, "This one shall not go with you," he shall not go.

Gideon: Yes Lord. Whatever you say.

Narrator 3: So Gideon brought the troops down to the water.

God: Now, I want you to have all the men take a drink. All those who lap the water with their tongues, as a dog laps, you shall put to one side; all those who kneel down to drink, you shall put to the other side.

Gideon: Lap like dogs? I don't get it.

God: You don't have to get it; you just have to do what I say.

Narrator 4: The number of those that lapped was three hundred; but all the rest of the troops knelt down to drink water.

God: With these three hundred men I will send you into battle, and I will give you victory over the Midianites. Let all the other soldiers go back to their homes.

Gideon: Lord, I still don't get it. But you're the one in charge; we'll do it your way.

Narrator 5: So Gideon collected the three hundred God had chosen and sent the rest of the Israelites back home. Each man was given a trumpet, a torch, and a jar to cover the torch. The enemy camp was below them in the valley.

God: Get up. Attack the camp, for I have given it into your hand.

Gideon: Listen, men! Keep your eyes on me and do what I do. Take your place around the enemy camp. When I blow the trumpet, you also blow your trumpets and shout, "For the Lord and for Gideon!"

Narrator 6: So Gideon and his soldiers crept up to the outskirts of the enemy camp. In the middle of the night Gideon blew his trumpet and smashed the jar that was in his hands, letting the torch shine brightly. All the others did the same. They shouted:

Army: For the Lord and for Gideon!

Narrator 7: When the Midianites heard the blast of trumpets and saw the lights appear suddenly all around them, they were so confused and frightened that they started fighting each other, thinking they were being attacked. The Midianite army fled for their lives. There was no doubt: God had won the victory for Israel!

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