



Gideon Defeats the Midianites

Judges 6:12-17, 36-40; 7:1-8; 17-21

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Setting: The set for Units 7-10 is designed to look like the outside of the King City Herald, a large newspaper building circa 1940's. A door leads to the office. A phone booth provides the place for the superheroes' quick costume changes. The center panel can be removed to reveal the superheroes "Secret Lab," filled with screens and gadgets (similar to Batman's Bat Cave), where the heroes watch over the city. There is a useable fire escape with a door and a ladder down to ground level. There is a ramp on stage right. For added interest, build windows, entrances, and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Scoop Gibson is a street-wise, savvy reporter who hides his secret identity as superhero "Scripture Guy." Kasey Carter is a young, college-educated reporter (can be male or female) whose secret identity is superhero "Kingdom Crusader." Kid is a young child (can be male or female).

Plot: Scripture Guy saves the kid's puppy. He tells Kasey and the kid how God led Gideon and the Israelites to victory. We learn that when God gives us victories we should give Him the glory!

Costumes: Fedoras, 1940's Zoot suits (high-waist, wide-legged, tight-cuffed pegged trousers, long coat with wide lapels and wide padded shoulders) and/or 1940's dress suit (padded shoulders, thin belt), Superhero costumes worn underneath (capas, face masks, body suit, tights, etc.), "SG" emblem on Scripture Guy costume, "KC" emblem on Kingdom Crusader costume. Kid can wear regular street clothing.

Props: Dog stuffed animal, note pad, pencil, newspaper, Bible

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/Outro music
2. Heroic music
3. Newspaper box: "Good News" or other triumphant song clip. Music plays when box is opened to reveal the Bible.
4. Barking dog
5. Telephone ring
6. Distant sirens
7. Radio static

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring superheroes is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Fallback slide reads "King City Chronicles"
3. A newspaper box holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
4. Scripture Slide: **"The LORD said to Gideon, 'You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her...'"** Judges 7:2
5. Beacon light with cross shape in it
6. Strobes, moving lights

Adaptations:

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form at ResourceWell.org

King City Chronicles
Unit 7, Lesson 34
Gideon Defeats the Midianites
Judges 6:12-17, 36-40; 7:1-8; 17-21

Voiceover (VFX: short video intro)

Dateline: King City, a city devoted to the glory of God. But in her dark underbelly there are villains gathering...evil men who seek to steal God's glory! Will King City find her hero? Can she be saved and restored to her former glory? For the answer to these questions and more, tune in every week to the King City Chronicles!

Kasey (Enters with newspaper.)

It's here! It's here! My first big headline! Scoop, Scoop, Scoop! Look! Look what I've got!

Scoop (Enters through office door.)

A newspaper! That's amazing!

Kasey

Not just any newspaper! Read what it says! Read it out loud!

Scoop

The King City Herald.

Kasey

Stop teasing! You know what I mean. Read the name and the headline. Read it out loud!

Scoop

"Fantastic Fire Has Fabulous Finish" by Kasey Carter.

Kasey

Read it again.

Scoop

Kasey Carter, by Kasey Carter.

Kasey

That's right! Kasey Carter, journalist! I can hardly believe it, my name in print! This is the best day of my life. You should have seen that fire, Scoop. It was a regular three alarm blaze! But just at the right

moment, this superhero showed up and God sent a storm to put out that fire. You should've been there, Scoop.

Scoop

I was.

Kasey

Where? I didn't see you.

Scoop

I mean...I was there in spirit. (Scoop exits.)

Kid (Enters through house.)

Help! Somebody! Somebody, help! I need help! Please anybody, help!

Kasey

I'll help you. What is it, kid?

Kid

It's my Doggie, he's missing! Waahh!

Kasey (Pulls out note pad.)

Hot dog! Another big story! Can you describe the victim?

Kid

He looks like...a dog.

Kasey

Can you be more specific?

Kid

He's hairy, has four legs, and a wet nose.

Kasey

Now we're getting somewhere! When did you last see him?

Kid

Right before I lost him.

Kasey

You're not going to make this easy, are you?

Scripture Guy (on fire escape)

Never fear, Scripture Guy is here!

Kasey
Scripture Guy?

Kid
Scripture Guy!

Scripture Guy (on fire escape)
I shall preserve your purloined puppy!

Kasey and Kid
What?!

Scripture Guy (SFX: barking dog)
I'll save the dog. (Gets dog off roof.) **Put your arms out, kid!** (Drops dog in kid's arms.)

Kid (Catches dog.)
Doggie! Thanks Scripture Guy! You're the bee's knees!

Scripture Guy (Climbs down.)
It's all in a day's work.

Kasey
Wow, that was swell Scripture Guy! You're a real superhero!

Scripture Guy
I never claimed to be super. I'm just a servant God chooses to use, kind of like Gideon.

Kid
Gideon? Who's Gideon?

Scripture Guy
He was just a simple fellow God used to save His people, the Israelites. Here, let me get the Bible out and show you, right now! (He opens box. SFX: "Good News," VFX: Beam of light shines from box.) **Here it is...**

Kid
Hey, Doggie can't see the Bible!

Kasey
Your dog can read?

Kid
No, but he likes to look at the pictures.

Scripture Guy
The Bible says, the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!"

Kasey
See that? Gideon *was* mighty!

Scripture Guy
Gideon didn't think so. He asked for a sign proving God was with him.

Kid
Golly gee, Scripture Guy, what kind of a sign was he asking for?

Scripture Guy
The sign was for dew to soak a wool fleece while the ground around it stayed dry. When God did that for him and another sign, Gideon finally believed God's promise to use him to save Israel from the Midianites.

Kid
Midnight? Isn't that kind of late for a battle?

Scripture Guy
Not midnight! Midianites. They were enemies from the land of Midian.

Kasey
Oh, the Israelites could win easily. They had over 30,000 soldiers.

Scoop (VFX: Scripture slide – Judges 7:2)
God knew the people might say that, so "The Lord said to Gideon, 'You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her...'" God told Gideon that if any man was afraid to send him home.

Kid
Are you kidding? I'll bet half of them must have been scared!

Scripture Guy

Actually, it was two thirds—22,000 men went home.

Kasey

That still left Israel with 10,000 men!

Scripture Guy

You're right, but God wanted an even smaller army, so He made Gideon choose only the men who drank water from the river, not by kneeling, but by scooping it into their hands and lapping it up.

Kid

Like Doggie?

Scripture Guy

Exactly!

Kasey

And that's who God chose?

Scripture Guy

All 300 of them.

Kasey

Only 300? You can't defeat a whole army with just 300 men!

Scripture Guy

No, but God can!

Kid

So, how did God do it?

Scripture Guy

You'll never believe it, kid. God told Gideon to give each man a trumpet and a jar with a torch inside. At the same time, they all blew the trumpets, broke the jars, and raised the torches—the Midianite army ran away in fear.

Kid

Jeepers! I'll bet everyone gave God the credit!

Scripture Guy

They sure did and just like Gideon, when I fight an enemy, I know it's God who gives me the victory! (SFX: distant sirens, VFX: beacon light) Oh my, a distress signal. If my senses are sharp, there's a bank robbery going on uptown at this very moment. Scripture Guy to the rescue! I give everything to honor my King! (exit)

Kid

Wait for me Scripture Guy! I want to watch! You're my hero! (exit)

Kasey

Wow, what a godly hero! (SFX: phone rings) Hey, that's Scoop's phone! Maybe I should answer it. Hello? What's that? A big accident? Way downtown? Okay, thank you, I'll give Scoop the message. (Hangs up phone.) Now what do I do? I should report on that uptown bank robbery, but those people downtown need a hero to save them. Only God can give us the victory and I know just the person God is calling! Wait here, kids! (Enters phone booth to change.)

(SFX: "Heroic Music," static, VFX: strobes, moving lights) This is a job for Kingdom Crusader! (Exits phone booth in superhero costume.) I give everything to honor my King! (Exits through audience.)

(SFX: "Heroic music" continues, VFX: beacon light)