

strength or greatness. Now say to your soldiers that any among them who are afraid may go home."

When Gideon gave the message, twenty-two thousand drew back, leaving only ten thousand brave enough to fight. But God said, "There are too many still. When you bring your men down to the spring to drink, every man whom you see kneeling down and putting his mouth to the edge of the water, shall stand on one side, while those who dip up water with their hands shall stand on the other side."

Among the ten thousand there were three hundred who dipped up water with their hands, and the Lord said to Gideon, "These are they whom I have chosen to go with you; let all the rest go home."

Then Gideon gave each of his chosen men an empty pitcher, and a lighted torch within the pitcher. And at midnight they stole down secretly into the sleeping camp of the Midianites, when at a signal from Gideon the three hundred, breaking their pitchers and waving the torches and blowing on the

trumpets, sprang with a great shout upon the enemy, taking them completely by surprise.

Supposing from the noise, that they were surrounded by a great army, the Midianites fell into confusion, stabbing one another by mistake in the dark. In this way nearly their whole army was destroyed. So the Lord delivered them into the hands of Gideon.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How did the Midianites trouble Israel?
2. Where did the people take refuge from them?
3. What kind of man was Gideon?
4. To what work did God call him?
5. How did he gather an army?
6. Why did God say he had too many soldiers?
7. How were they first made less?
8. What plan did God tell Gideon at last to take to decide who should go?
9. How many were finally chosen to go with him?
10. What plan did Gideon take for overcoming the Midianites?
11. How did he succeed?
12. What is the Golden Text?

JOAN OF ARC

Many years ago there lived a little French girl who could neither read nor write, but she could spin and sew. She was a kind, gentle little girl, and she asked God to give her something to do to show her love for truth and right.

Every day she watched the sheep in the fields. One day a voice spoke to her. It said, "Joan, God wants you to do something for Him. Keep yourself pure and sweet."

It was a long time before she heard the voice again. Then it said, "Joan, Maid of Truth, you can do something now for God. Fight for truth and right. Take this banner, ride this white horse, and lead the soldiers in battle."

Joan did as she was told. All the soldiers loved the brave girl and obeyed her. She led them well, won the fight and became one of the greatest heroines of her country.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God will make me strong

Primary Catechism—126. What will happen at the Judgment Day? At the Judgment Day the dead will be raised to life again; and Jesus will separate the good from the bad.

Shorter Catechism—52. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?

A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.

Lesson Hymn

The Son of God goes forth to war,
A kingly crown to gain;
His blood-red banner streams afar:
Who follows in His train?
Who best can drink His cup of woe,
Triumphant over pain;
Who patient bears His cross below,—
He follows in His train.

Amen.

—Hymn 250, Book of Praise