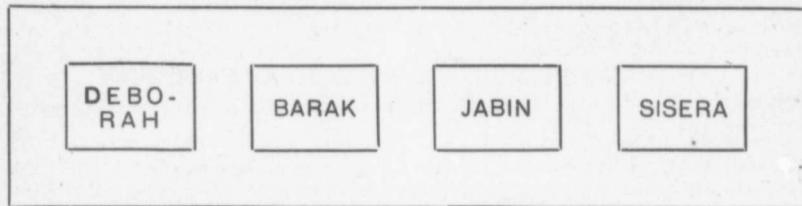


accompany him, and who did gain a great victory. Ask the scholars what was the real reason of Barak's success. The point to bring out and press home is that he won his victory because



he went to fight in obedience to a command of the Lord (see v. 6). So we may be sure of real success if we are acting in obedience to God.

Lesson III.

THE VICTORY OF GIDEON'S BAND

April 18, 1920

Judges 7 : 1-8 ; 16-21.

GOLDEN TEXT—There is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few.—1 Sam. 14 : 6.

1 Then Jerubbabai, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Har'od : so that the host of the Mid'ianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Mo'reh, in the valley.

2 And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Mid'ianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gil'ead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand ; and there remained ten thousand.

4 And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many : bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there : and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee ; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

5 So he brought down the people unto the water : and the Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lapped of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself ; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

6 And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men : but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

7 And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three

hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Mid'ianites unto thine hand : and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

8 So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets : and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men : and the host of Mid'ian was beneath him in the valley.

16 And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

17 And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise : and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.

18 When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.

19 So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch ; and they had but newly set the watch : and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.

20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal : and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.

21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp : and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

THE LESSON PLAN

- I. Gideon's Army Sifted, 1-8.
- II. Gideon's Army Equipped, 16-18.
- III. Gideon's Army Victorious, 19-21.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Israel oppressed, Judges 6 : 1-10. T.—Gideon's call, Judges 6 : 11-24. W.—Gideon's fidelity, Judges 6 : 25-32. Th.—Gideon encouraged, Judges 6 : 33-40. F.—The victory of Gideon's band, Judges 7 : 1-8, 16-21. S.—David's call, 1 Sam. 16 : 1-13. S.—Power of faith, Heb. 11 : 23-30.

Primary Catechism—Ques. 85. Which is the Seventh

Commandment? A. The Seventh Commandment is, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Ques. 86. What did Jesus say about the Seventh Commandment? A. Jesus said this Commandment is broken by all impure thoughts.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 90. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation? A. That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereto with diligence, preparation, and prayer ; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practise it in our lives.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 90, (254), 264 (444), 273 (25), 275 (533), 272 (611), 262 (538). (The numbers of the Praise Selections in brackets are those