

Bible for Children
presents

GIDEON'S
LITTLE
ARMY



Written by Edward Hughes

Illustrated by Janie Forest

Adapted by Ruth Klassen

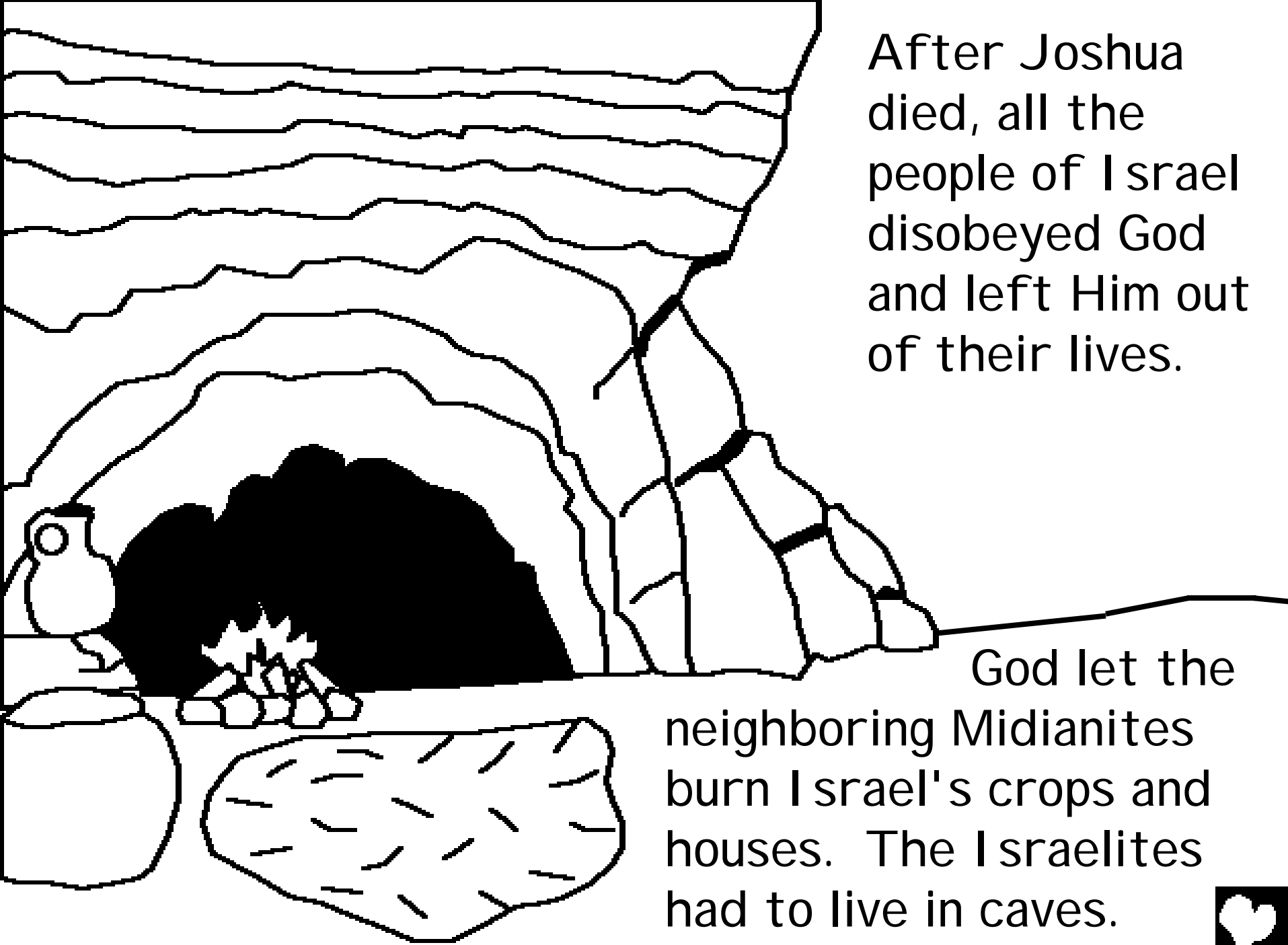
Produced by Bible For Children, Inc. ©2004

PO Box 3
Winnipeg MB R3C 2G1
Canada

www.bibleforchildren.org

Original story ©2002 Genesis Research Corporation





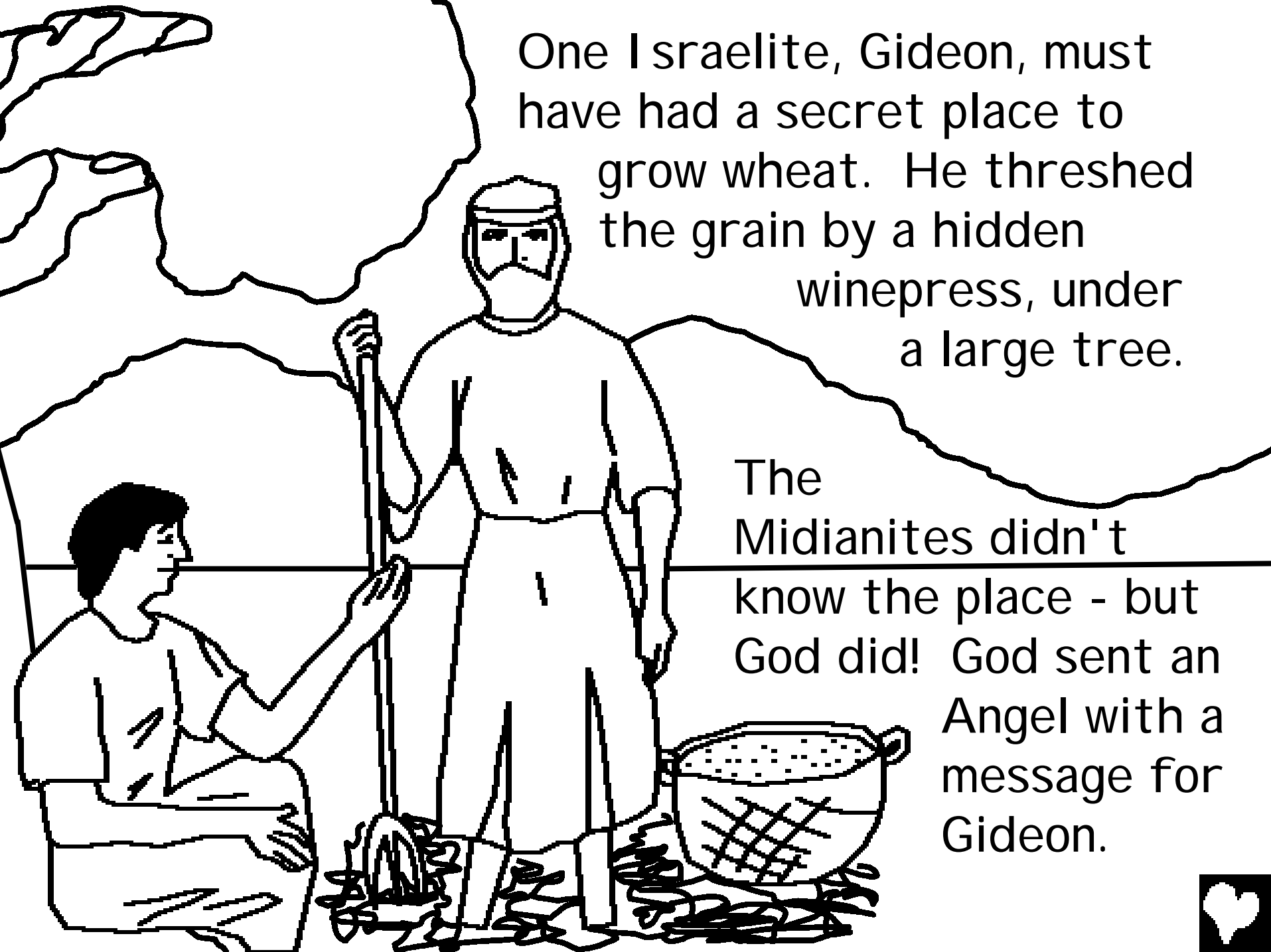
After Joshua died, all the people of Israel disobeyed God and left Him out of their lives.

God let the neighboring Midianites burn Israel's crops and houses. The Israelites had to live in caves.



One Israelite, Gideon, must have had a secret place to grow wheat. He threshed the grain by a hidden winepress, under a large tree.

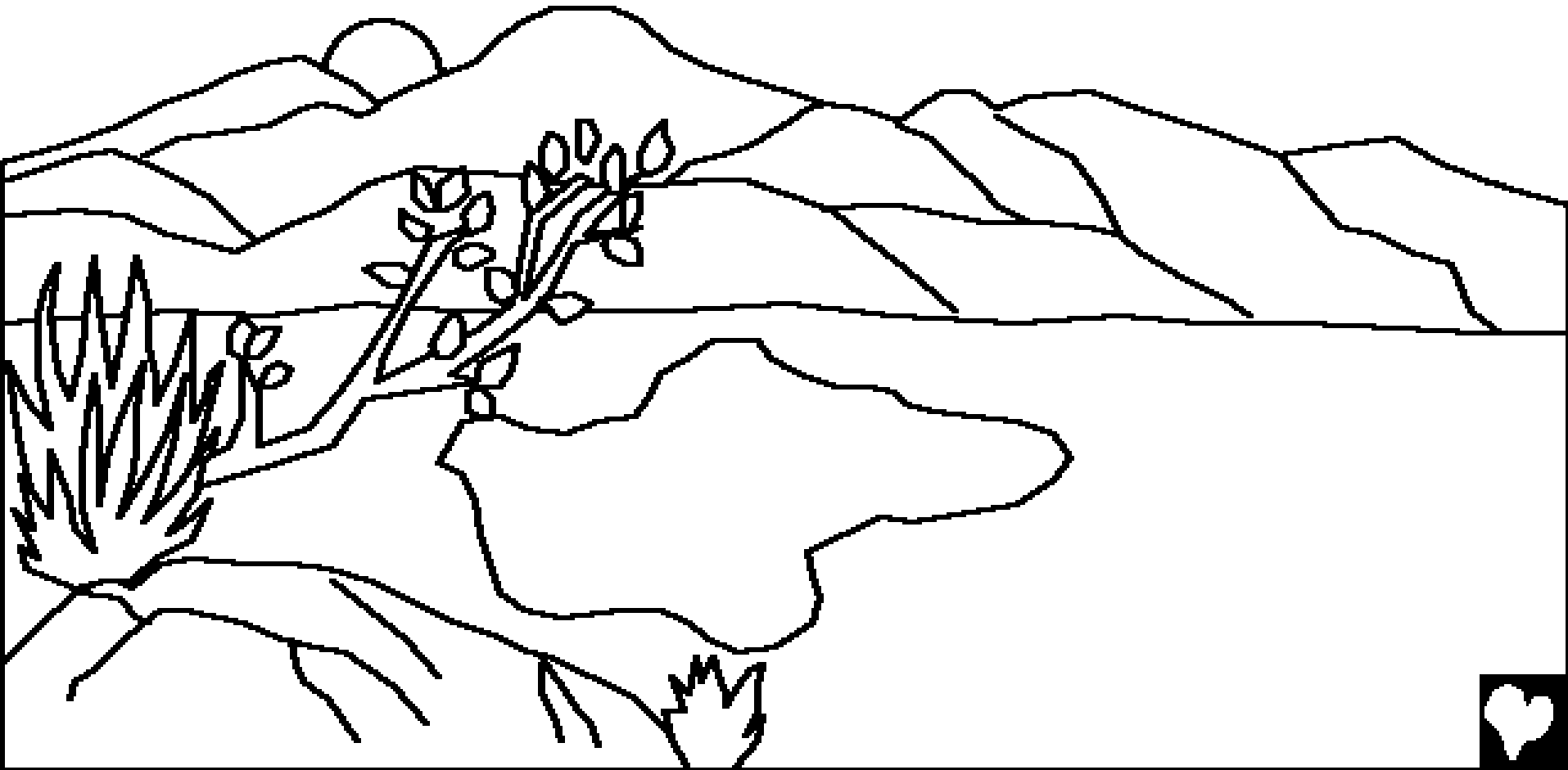
The Midianites didn't know the place - but God did! God sent an Angel with a message for Gideon.

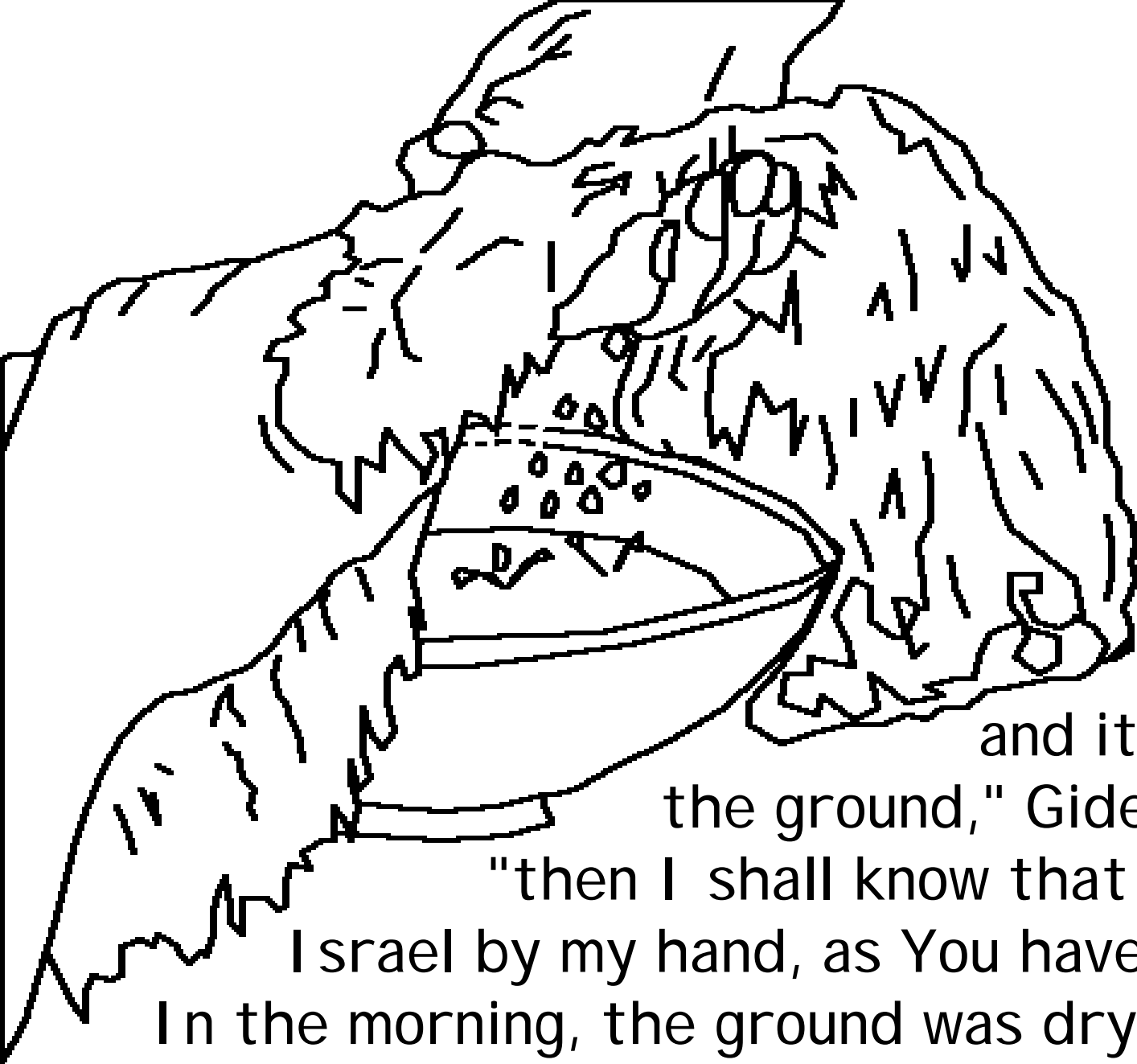


God wanted Gideon to destroy his own father's image of a false god and build an altar to the true God. Though Gideon was afraid his countrymen would kill him, he did what God commanded.



God also wanted Gideon to lead Israel's army against the wicked Midianites. But Gideon was afraid. He asked for a special sign that God was with him. Then he laid a fleecy sheepskin on the ground.



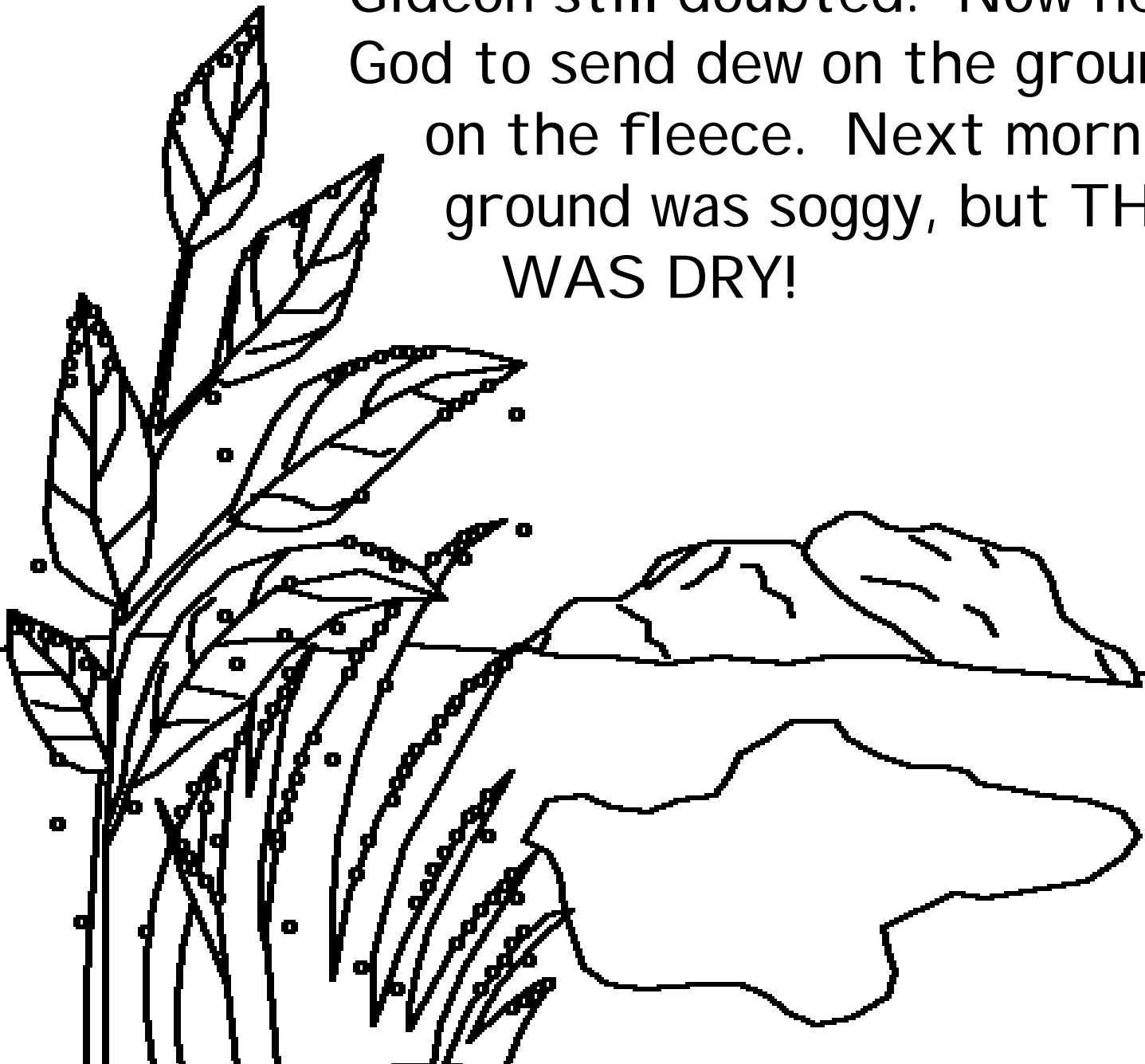


"If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground," Gideon prayed, "then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said."

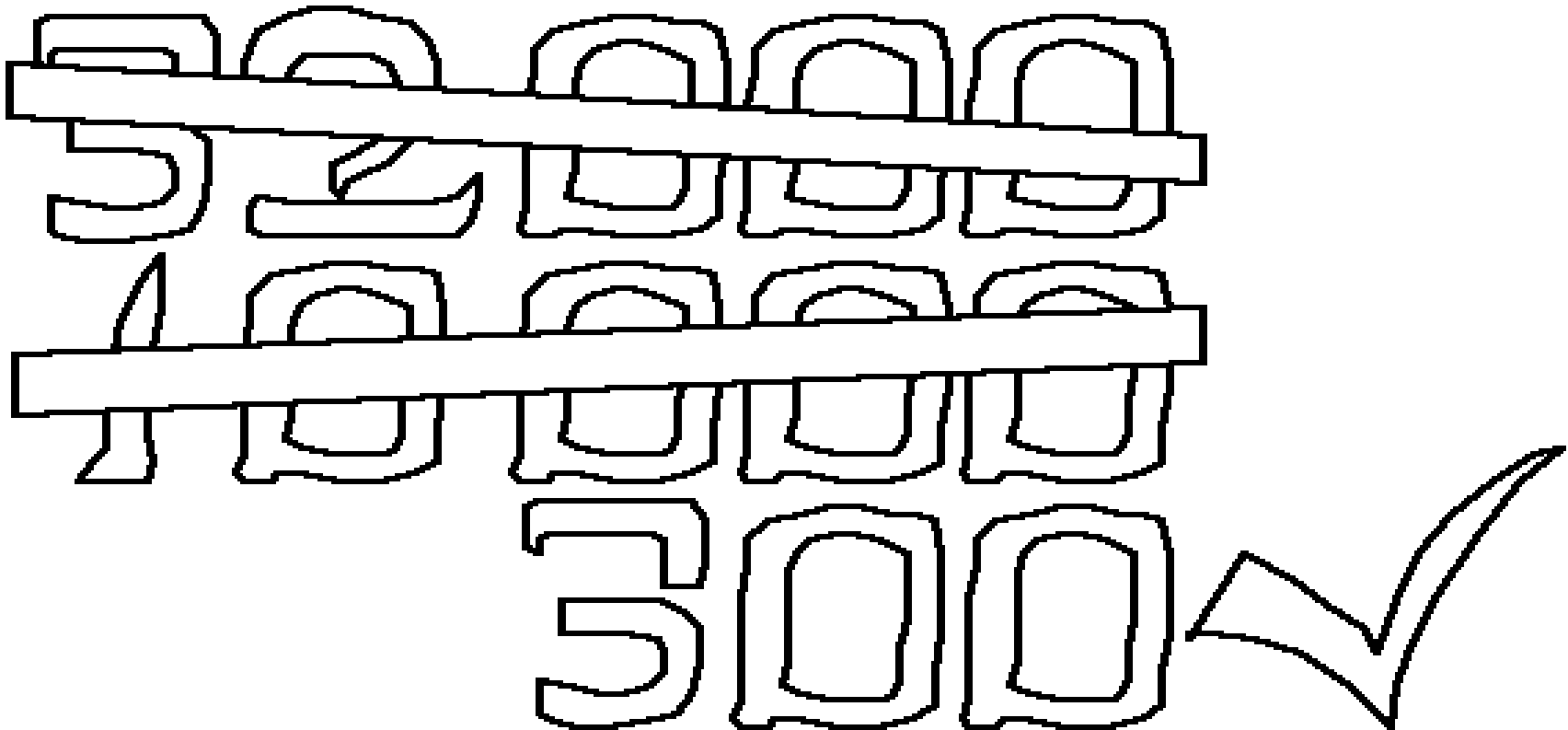
In the morning, the ground was dry, but
THE FLEECE WAS SOAKING WET!



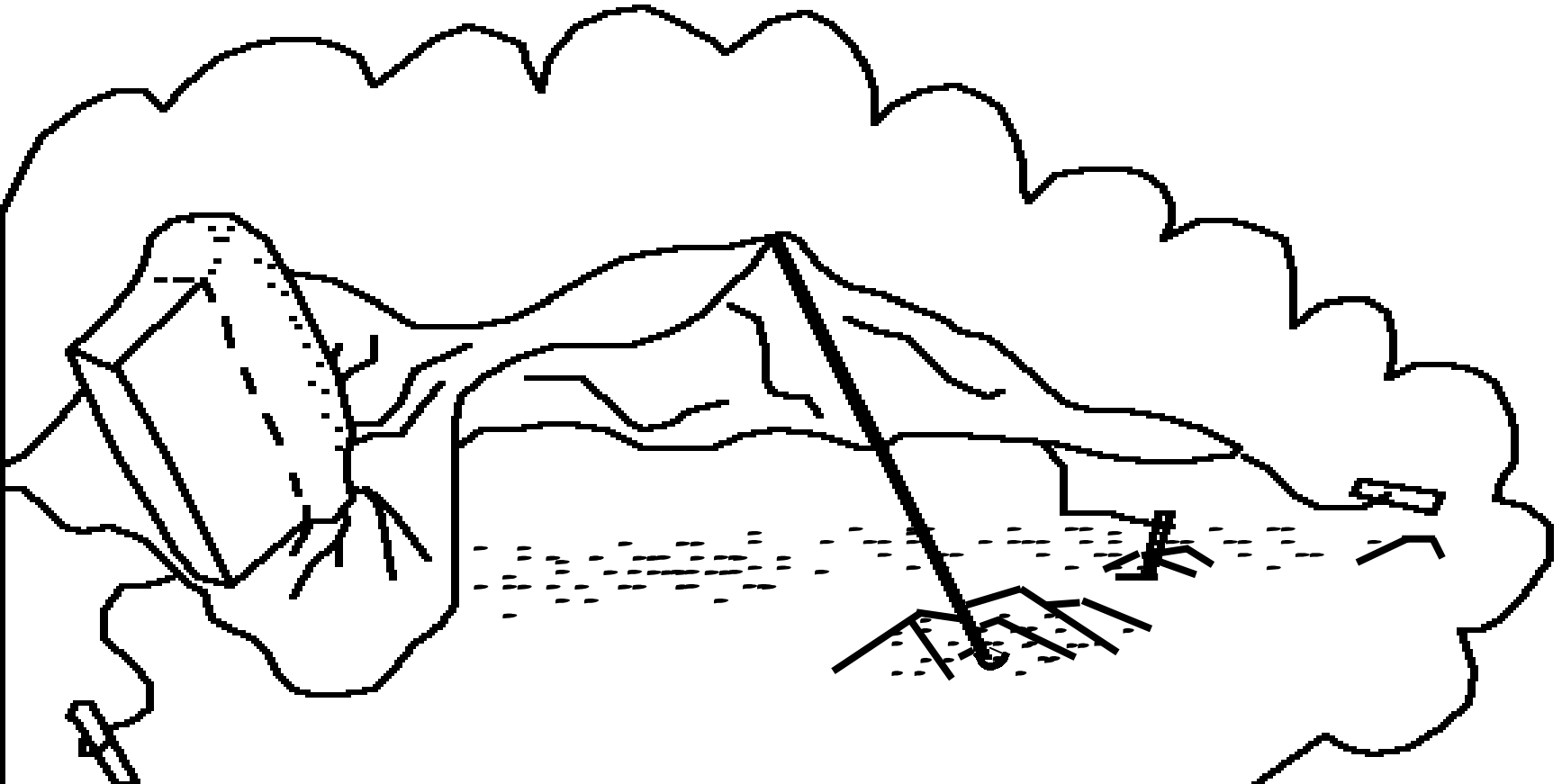
Gideon still doubted. Now he wanted God to send dew on the ground but not on the fleece. Next morning - the ground was soggy, but **THE FLEECE WAS DRY!**



Gideon started out with an army of 32,000.
God cut it down to only 300 men. God did not
want Israel to say "My own hand has saved me."
God alone was Israel's Saviour.



Knowing Gideon was still afraid, God let him secretly overhear one Midianite soldier tell another about a strange dream. In the dream, a loaf of bread tumbled against a Midianite tent and destroyed it.

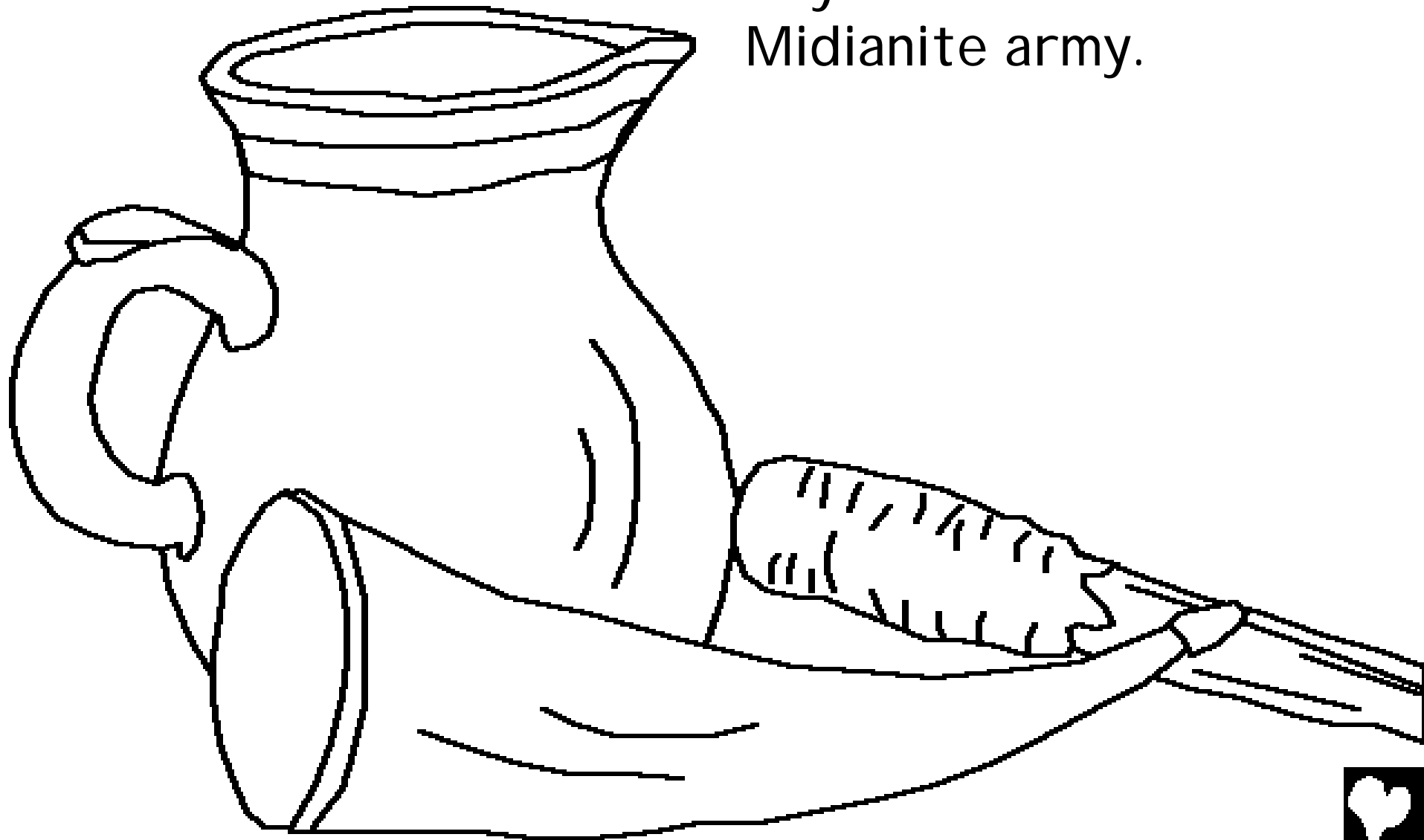


The other guard was terrified. "This is ... the sword of Gideon ..." he cried. When Gideon heard the dream and its meaning, he knew God was going to give him the victory.

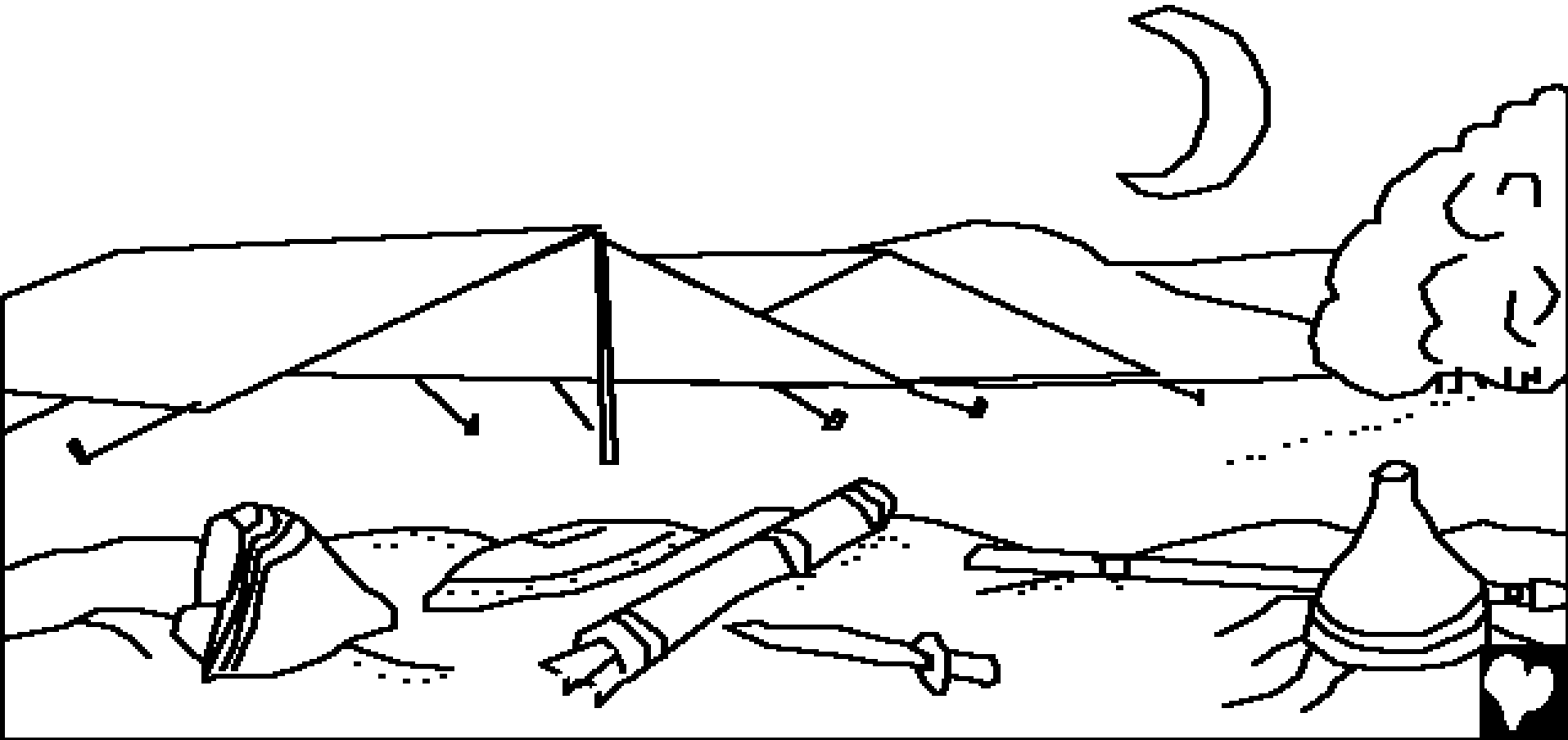


Gideon planned a night attack. He gave each soldier a trumpet, and empty pitchers with torches inside.

They surrounded the Midianite army.

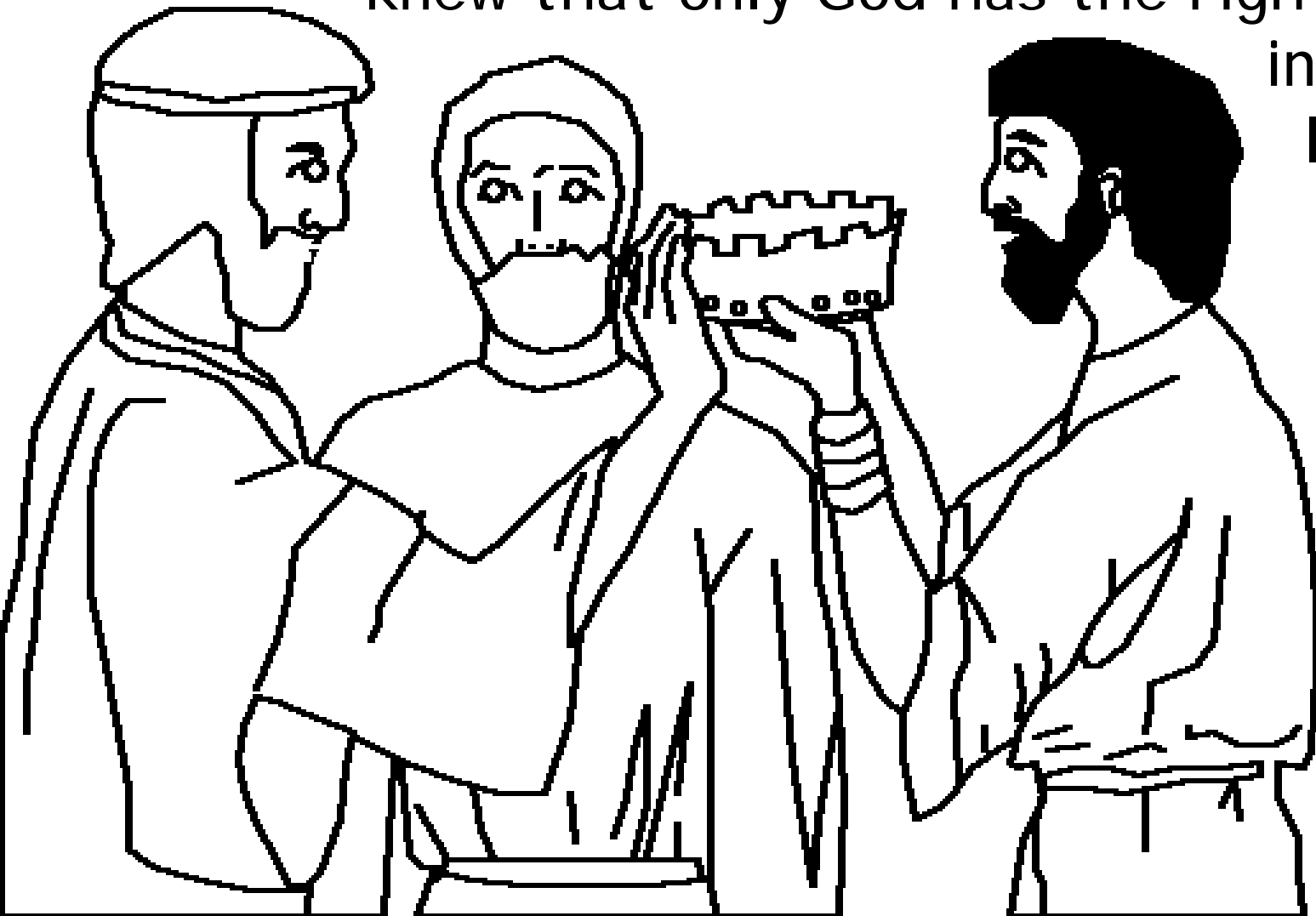


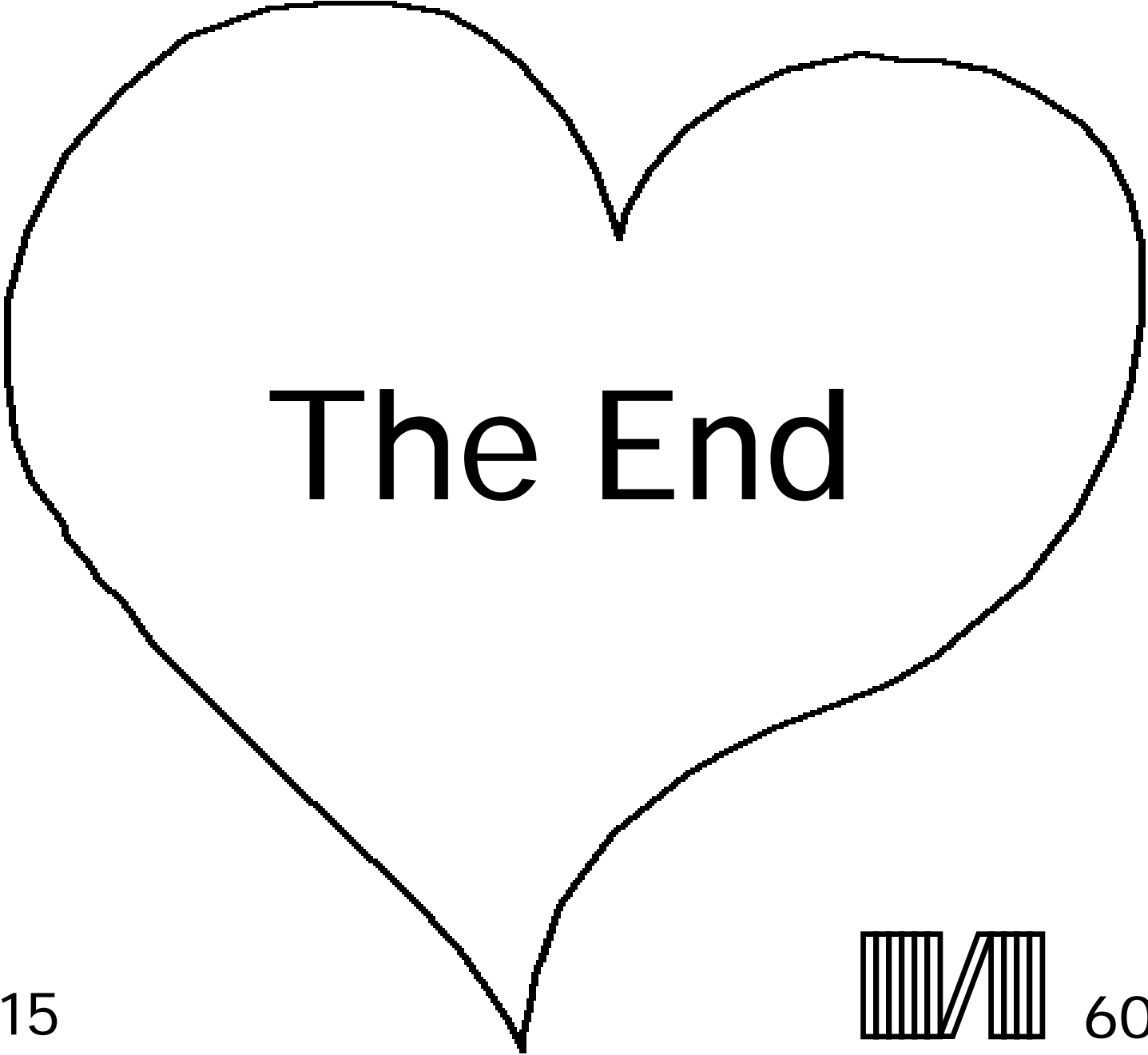
At Gideon's signal, the soldiers blew their trumpets, smashed their pitchers and lit their torches. What noise! What confusion! The scared Midianites got up and ran away.



After this great victory, the men of Israel asked Gideon to rule over them. "I will not rule over you .. the Lord shall rule over you," Gideon replied. He knew that only God has the right to rule

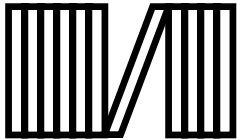
in people's lives.





The End

15



60



This Bible story tells us about our wonderful God who made us and who wants us to know Him.

God knows we have done bad things, which He calls sin.

The punishment for sin is death, but God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross and be punished for our sins. Then Jesus came back to life and went home to Heaven! If you believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive your sins, He will do it! He will come and live in you now, and you will live with Him forever.

If you want to turn from your sins, say this to God:

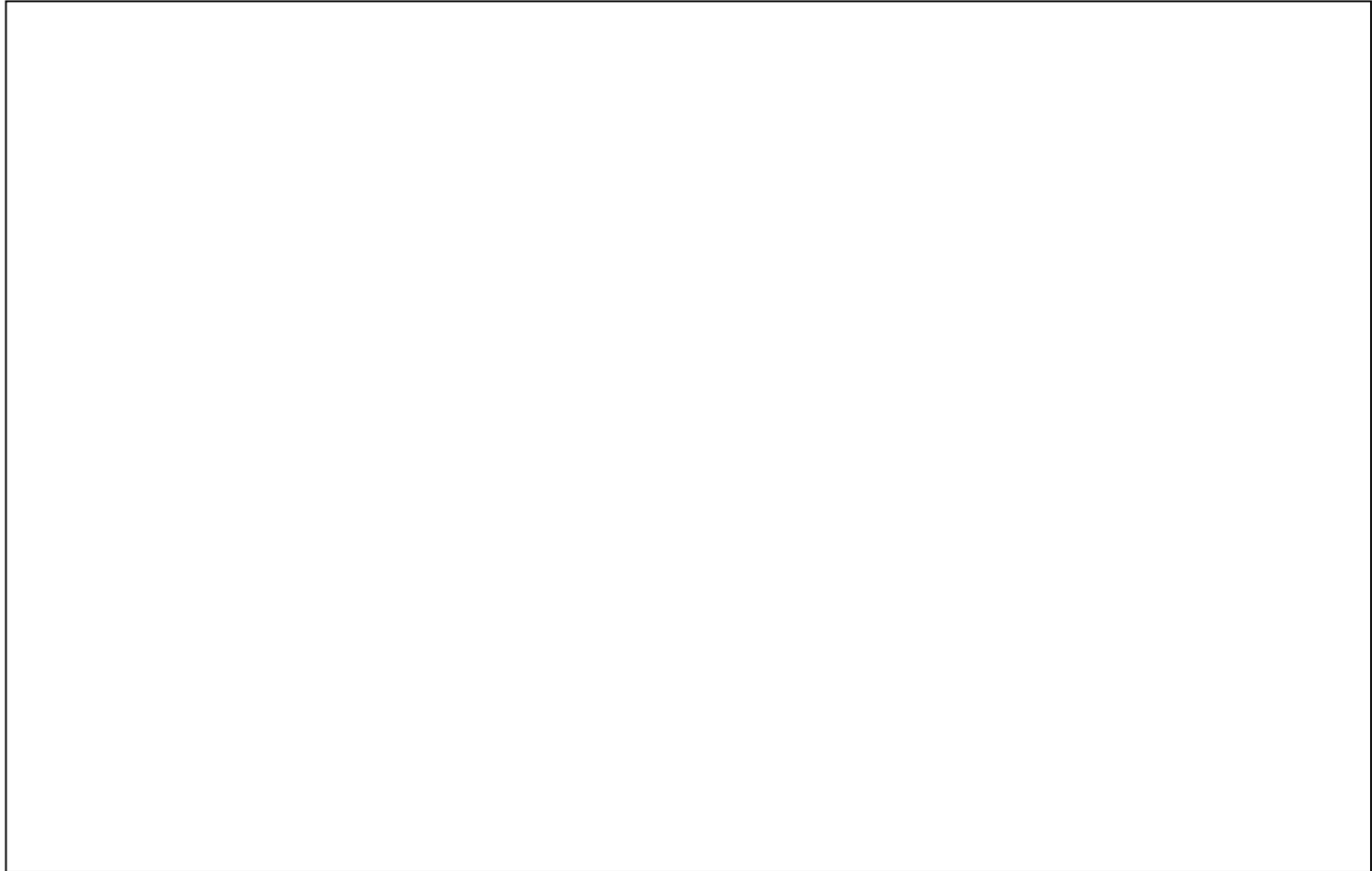
Dear God, I believe that Jesus died for me and now lives again. Please come into my life and forgive my sins, so that I can have new life now, and one day go to be with You forever. Help me to live for You as Your child. Amen.

Read the Bible and talk with God every day! John 3:16



Gideon's Little Army

A story from God's Word, the Bible, is found in
Judges 6-9



"The entrance of Your Word gives light." Psalm 119:130

