

Gideon and the Gold Ephod

I love the story of Gideon. It's more than just a story for kids. It's a story for all of us.

We pick up the story of Gideon during a dark period for God's people, [Judges 6-8](#). God's people had done evil, [Judges 6:1](#). The result was punishment from God, [Judges 6:1](#). Israel cried out to God, [Judges 6:6-7](#). God responded to the people through a prophet, [Judges 6:7-10](#). We then see Gideon being called by God to deliver His people from the Midianites, [Judges 6:11-16](#). Gideon asked questions so many of us do during times of suffering. He was reassured by the LORD that He would be with him, [Judges 6:16](#). Yet Gideon asked for a sign, [Judges 6:17-21](#).

There are some interesting events that happen after these initial events.

1. Gideon built an altar to the LORD, [Judges 6:24](#).
2. Then he tore down the altars his father had erected, [Judges 6:25-27](#). This took a lot of courage to do this and that's why Gideon took some men with him and then did it by night.
3. The people figured out that it was Gideon who did this and wanted him to die, [Judges 6:28-33](#). But no harm would come upon Gideon.
4. In Chapters seven and eight we see how God would Gideon victory over his enemies. In [Judges 7:9](#), it says, *"Now the same night it came about that the LORD said to him, 'Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hands...'"*

But then we find something interesting in chapter eight. Not only is it interesting, it's also sad! In [Judges 8:23-27](#) it says, "But Gideon said to them, I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you." Yet Gideon said to them, 'I would request of you, that each of you give me an earring from his spoils. (For they had gold earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.) They said, "We will surely give them." So they spread out a garment, and every one of them threw an earring there from his spoil. The weight of the gold earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments and the pendants and the purple robes which were on the kings of Midian, and besides the neck bands that were on their camels' necks. Gideon made it into a ephod, and placed it in his city, Ophrah, and all Israel played the harlot with it there, so that it became a snare to Gideon and his household." Why would Gideon do such a thing? Gideon experienced the power of God, great success from God, and even tore down altars his father had made. And yet, he would make this gold ephod, which became a snare for him and the people. This is a great reminder of why we must guard ourselves from idols, [1 John 5:21](#).

- Benjamin Lee