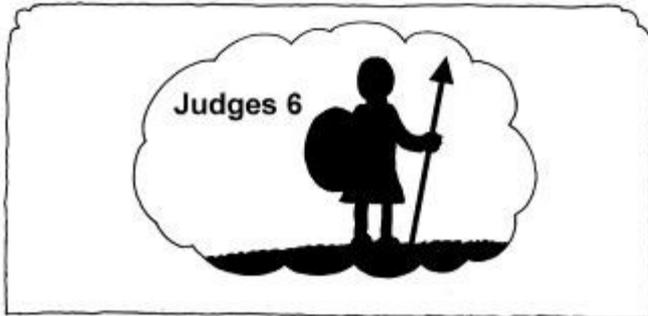


# GIDEON

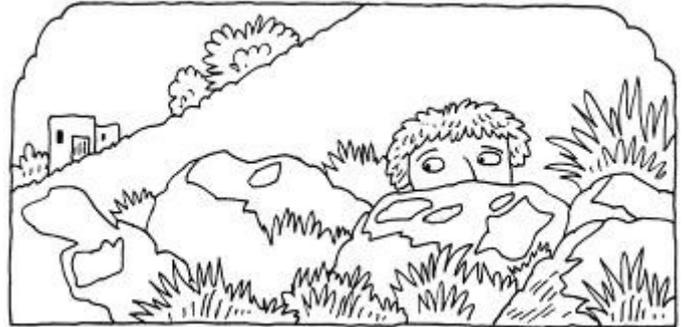
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By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther



When we need to be sure that God is telling us to do something we can ask God to show us by a sign. This is called "putting out a fleece."



God told Gideon he was to lead an army of soldiers and fight the enemy of Israel. "But my family is the poorest in Israel and I am the least important in my family," Gideon said.



Just to make sure he had REALLY heard God, Gideon took a fleece of wool, cut from a sheep. "Please show me, by a sign, that you really want me to do this," he prayed.



"I will leave this on DRY ground all night. In the morning if the GROUND is DRY, but the FLEECE is WET, then I will lead the army and know that you are with me, God."



The next morning the woolly FLEECE was dripping WET, but the GROUND was DRY. "Is this really a sign from God, or is it just dew?" wondered Gideon.



"Just to be sure, I will put out another fleece. If the GROUND is WET, but the FLEECE is DRY, I will know you are with me," he prayed. The next day the FLEECE was DRY and GROUND was WET!



Gideon wasn't important, or strong but he felt brave knowing that God was with him. With only a small group of men Gideon went to fight their enemy's big army.



Even though the Midianites were stronger, Gideon and his men won the battle and the families of Israel were saved. Gideon and the people thanked God.