

The God of Hope Reader



O_E words included in text: (in the order in which they appear)

those	hope	pose(d)	pole	quote
rope	spoke	doze(d)	vote(d)	broke
whole	choke	woke	hole	froze
chose	joke	hose	code	zone
rose	role	bone	come*	
drove	alone	one*	slope(s)	
home(s)	throne	more*	close	

*o_e words that do not make the long o sound

Vocabulary Words—These may be words that you need to discuss the meaning of before reading:

destroyed, “choke out”, clan, throne, fleece, pole

This text was written at a first grade level (based on the phonics skills and sight words chosen). The length of the text may be longer than your child is accustomed to. It may help to read the text TO your child on the first day. On subsequent readings, you can offer to share the reading, taking turns. Gradually release the responsibility and limit support as it is re-read.

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The God of Hope

Joshua 6 & Judges 6-7



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Joshua and the people took the land of Jericho. But they were kind to Rahab and those in her family. She put a red rope out her window to let the Israelites know where she lived. After they saved her, the whole city of Jericho was destroyed. The people of God trusted Him and He helped them take much of the land.



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As Joshua got older, God gave the Israelites rest from their enemies. But after Joshua died, His people chose to worship other gods. So an enemy rose up, which drove the people out of their homes and into caves to hide. They had lost hope and began to pray to the Lord for help.



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About that time, an angel of God spoke to a man named Gideon. He told Gideon that God wanted him to choke out their enemy. Gideon said, "This must be a joke. My clan is too small to take on this role. There is no hope." But the Lord said, "You will not do this alone. I am on the throne and I am your Hope."

Gideon was not sure about all of this. He set a fleece out on the ground and posed a question to God. "If You are really going to help me do this, can You make this fleece all wet and keep the ground dry while I sleep?" Then he dozed off for the night.



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When he woke up, the fleece felt like a hose had made it very wet, but the ground was as dry as a bone! Just to be sure, Gideon gave God one more test. He asked God to make the fleece dry while the ground became wet. And God did this, too.



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Gideon's army was ready to fight, but God said there were too many men. Gideon took a pole and those men who were afraid could go home. Many voted to go back. Still, God said there were too many men. So Gideon took the men to a watering hole. Those that used their hands to drink were the only ones God wanted for His army. Now, Gideon only had 300 men!

Gideon was still not sure. How would his very small army choke out the enemy? God told him to go down into the enemy's camp to spy.



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He found a place to hide. He heard a man tell about a bad dream. Another man in the camp said, "Your dream is like a code. Gideon and his army will come down the slopes, close in on us, and we will be destroyed."

This quote gave Gideon great hope!

Gideon told the Israelites, "God is our Hope. He alone will win this battle!" He gave the men horns and clay jars with a flame inside.

Standing all around the enemy, they blew their horns, broke their jars, and shouted.



At this, those in the enemy camp froze with fear and they began to fight each other! Those who were not killed, ran away from the war zone. God did all these things to give His people hope in Him alone.