**Judges 7 – Gideon – Children’s Talk**

* V2: “The LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’ …”
* Go to Ephesians 2:8-9
  + We could not and did not save ourselves, so no one could boast

**Big Idea:** God delivers in a way that allows now room for pride.

**Purpose then:** Demonstrating that it is God who is strong to deliver, not Israelite strength.

**Call Now:** Know we are saved by God’s grace, not our own work.

* List of situations: tell if better to have more or fewer people
  + Football match
  + A&E department
  + Delivering leaflets to everyone in Cambridge
  + Something else Cambridge related
* Retell story:
  + Gideon going to fight Midian
  + Midian has a huge army – Gideon has 32,000
  + God says: “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’ …”
  + Sends nearly all of them away: those who are scared, those who have bad manners
    - Gideon is really scared, God comforts him
  + Given them trumpets, and lamps and jars.
  + During night smash jars, blow trumpets: God makes Midianites afraid
  + They win!
* Why was an army of 300 better than an army of 32,000? Because God knew there was a bigger danger that the people would think they had rescued themselves, but the small army showed that only God could have saved them!
* Carry on reading the story: see that Gideon soon forgets this, and so do all the people, because people, just like you and me, always think that we can do it; and so tell God we don’t need him.
* But God has stepped in to save us.
  + Remember Jen’s talk a few weeks ago
  + Talking about a verse that says “…”
  + God was the only one who could save Gideon, and he protected Gideon from boasting by using such a small army
  + God was the only one that could save us, and he protected us from boasting by sending Jesus to pay it all, to do everything. We are saved by God we do not need to do anything, and we cannot do anything