

Gideon, Two Altars, and the Fleece (Ages 3-6)

Materials Needed

See list of props on the right below.

Prepare in Advance

Construct an “altar of Baal” out of blocks. Print and prepare (see prop list at right) the picture of Baal (p. 3) and place it next to the altar. Read through the script (p. 2). Set up an area for the miracle, putting down a plastic bag or table-cloth. Fill a spray bottle with water. Place the fleeces or wool clothing and a bowl for squeezing water into nearby.

New Church Concept Idols

“The material of which idols were made, their forms, and their garments, among the ancients, represented the falsities of religion, from which was their worship. Idols of wood signified falsities concerning good works. All these falsities exist in those who do not do the work of repentance, that is, shun evils as sins against God. For a stone in the Word signifies a truth in its ultimates.” *Apocalypse Revealed* 459

A teacher or an older student tells the story as children act out Gideon tearing down the altar of Baal, building an altar for the Lord, and asking for the sign of the fleece.

Characters:

- Gideon
- servants
- men of the city
- Joash (Gideon’s father)
- Gideon’s family

Props:

- *Statue of Baal* (p. 3) printed, stapled or taped to another piece of paper in a circle so it will stand up
- large wood or cardboard blocks to build an altar
- large rock (cardboard box)
- “trumpet” (e.g. rolled paper, cardboard tube)
- two pieces of wool fleece, or two items of clothing made from wool
- spray bottle filled with water
- large plastic bag or plastic tablecloth to cover the floor
- bowl to squeeze water into
- *optional*: simple costumes such as T-shirts



New Church Concept True and False Faith

Faith in the one and only true God is what makes our goodness truly good even in its inner form. Faith in a false God, on the other hand, makes our goodness good in outer form only. This type of goodness is not intrinsically good; for example, the faith the Canaanites had in Baal. This kind of faith is completely different from faith in the Lord, who is the true God and eternal life. What is a faith in God but a looking toward him and experiencing His presence as a result, and also a sense of confidence that He is helping us? If faith of this kind is united to goodness, the verdict is eternal life. The outcome is markedly different if faith is not united to goodness; it is even worse if faith is united to evil. See *True Christian Religion* 655

Gideon, Two Altars, and the Fleece Script

Characters	Reading	Actions
	The Lord told Gideon, “Tear down the altar of Baal. Cut down the wooden image of Baal beside it. Build an altar to the Lord on top of this rock. Offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image you will cut down.”	Children listen to the story.
Gideon and servants	That night, Gideon took ten servants and tore down the altar of Baal and cut down the wooden image beside it.	Children creep to the altar, tear it down and put the statue of Baal down on its side.
Gideon and servants	Then Gideon built an altar to the Lord on top of a rock and offered a sacrifice with the wood of the image he had cut down.	Children build an altar to the Lord on the rock (cardboard box upside down). Lay the image of Baal on top.
Men of the city	When the people woke up early next morning, and saw what had happened they said, “Who has done this?” They were told, “Gideon the son of Joash has done this.”	People from the city point to the altar of the Lord.
Men of the city, Joash (Gideon’s father)	Then the men of the city said to Joash, “Bring out your son Gideon because he tore down the altar of Baal and cut down the wooden image that was beside it.”	The Men of the city gesture to Joash. Gideon comes out.
Joash, Men of the city	But Joash, Gideon’s father, said to them, “Would you save Baal? If he is a god, let him speak for himself, because his altar has been torn down!”	Joash gestures to the Men of the city.
Joash and Gideon	So Joash gave Gideon the name Jerubbaal, saying, “Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar.”	Gideon kneels while Joash names him.
	Then the Midianites and all the people crossed the river Jordan and camped in the valley.	Children “cross the river” and sit down.
Gideon and his family	Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon. He blew the trumpet, and his family gathered behind him.	Gideon blows the trumpet and his family comes to stand with him.
Gideon, his family, and the tribes	Gideon sent messengers to the tribes of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali. And they came to meet them.	More people come to join Gideon and his family.
Gideon, his family, and the tribes	So Gideon said to God, “If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.”	Gideon puts a fleece on the plastic bag or tablecloth. Gideon and everyone go to “sleep”. The teacher, or an older student, wets the fleece by spraying water on it, being careful to keep the bag or cloth dry.
Gideon	And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water.	All wake up. Gideon squeezes water out of the fleece into a bowl.
Gideon, his family, and the tribes.	Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me, but let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece. Let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew.”	Gideon puts a fresh dry fleece on the ground. Everyone goes to “sleep”. The teacher or an older student picks up the fleece, sprays water on the plastic bag or tablecloth and puts the dry fleece back.
Gideon	And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.	Gideon wakes up to find the fleece dry and the ground wet.

Statue of Baal

