

The Angel Appearing to Gideon (Ages 7-10)

Materials Needed for Each Student

Gideon, Angel and Winepress template; scissors; sandpaper or brown paper; blue paper; glue; crayons, markers, etc.

optional: small seeds, brown pipe-cleaners or small sticks, glitter

Prepare in Advance

Gather supplies and print p. 2.

New Church Concept Angelic Form

“In heaven the Lord appears to the angels, but under an angelic form; for He fills an angel with His aspect, and thus with His presence from afar, and this He does in various places, but everywhere in accommodation to the good of love and of faith with those to whom He appears. Thus the Lord was seen by Gideon, and by Manoah and his wife, also by Moses, and the Israelitish people. This, therefore, is what is meant by seeing Jehovah face to face, and by seeing Jehovah and not dying.” *Apocalypse Explained* 412.16

In this project, students create a collage to illustrate the dramatic moment when the Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon. New Church teachings tell us that before He was born on earth (in the New Testament) in a human form, the Lord appeared to people in the form of an angel. So it was really the Lord who called Gideon to his mission as it is the Lord Himself who calls us to fight against the evils that try to take us over, as the Midianites had taken over the land of Israel.



1. Imagine having an angel appear to you! This is what happened to Gideon while he was threshing wheat. What do you think that moment may have felt like? Would you be afraid? Excited? Confused?
2. Gideon was probably a bit of all of these. He was afraid because in those days people thought that if you saw an angel it meant you were going to die. He might have been excited both because it was such an unusual thing to happen and also because he was being called to do something important. He was probably confused because he wasn't sure if the angel was real and then because he didn't think he could do what the Lord was asking of him.
3. We're going to make a collage to illustrate the moment the angel appeared to call Gideon to lead his people against their enemies.
4. Give each child a set of materials (see top left). Use the blue paper as the background for the collage.
5. Gideon was in a winepress—a place hollowed out of the ground. Have children cut out the *Winepress template* (p. 2) and trace around it on the back of a piece of sandpaper or brown paper. Cut the winepress out and glue it to the bottom of the background paper.
6. Have children color the pictures of Gideon and the Angel. Cut them out and glue them to the collage, placing Gideon in the winepress hollow looking at the angel beside him.
7. Children can also add details like the terebinth tree with crayons or markers.
8. *Optional*: Decorate the collage with small seeds to represent the grain Gideon was threshing, brown pipe-cleaners or small sticks for the angel's staff and/or for Gideon's threshing flail, glitter around the angel, etc.

Gideon, Angel and Winepress

Winepress template

