Formula for Success©

**Message:** A choral reading drama, (can also be used as standard drama), about Gideon, a courageous, natural born leader and a man of faith, and how God, through Gideon, shows the formula for success by trusting in God.

**Cast:** (can be adapted to fit needs and situations, we suggest as follows:)
- S1: solo person
- S2: solo person
- D: duet
- T: trio
- C: choir, any number of people

**Set:** none

**Lighting & Sound:** as available/required

**Costumes:** likely choir robes

**Props:** none

**Directions:** spoken in fast pace

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Script:**

C: We have a story to tell.

S1: A story?

S2: What kind of story?

C: A story of a courageous man, a natural born leader, a man people wanted to follow and obey.

D: Wow! A courageous leader! That means he was tall and good looking.

T: Obviously someone handsome and muscular.

D: How tall was he?

C: We really don’t know, but we do know he was the least of all his family and friends.

D: The least? And still people followed him?

C: Yes, they did, even into battle.
D: Wow! That is unusual!
T: But he was handsome, right?
C: No idea.
D: How could you not know?
T: Well, it goes without saying that he was handsome, I mean, television demands good looks in our leaders.
C: This man lived long before television.
S1: We are talking an old story here.
D, deep voice: Well then he would have to have a deep bass voice.
T, deep voice: A deep, radio voice.
C: Long before radio.
S2: We are talking middle ages story here!
C: Back long before middle ages actually.
S1: We are talking seriously old times here!
S2: Back before recorded history.
C: The story was recorded all right. And very reliably too.
S1: And no mention if he was good looking?
C: No mention.
S2: Or muscular?
C: Not a word.
S1 & S2: Very unusual!
D: Any idea where this guy was from?
C: Ophrah.

D: Ophrah? Where’s that?

C: We aren’t exactly sure.

T: Does this . . . reliable . . . story tell this guy’s name?

C: Gideon.

S1: Gideon?

S2: Sounds kinda . . . Bibleish . . . if you ask me.

C: Exactly.

S2: Exactly?

C: Gideon from the Bible. Old Testament. Judges to be exact.

T: Which means the story was just that, a story, not necessarily reliable.

C: It just doesn’t come any more reliable than God’s own word.

T: So just who did this guy, Gideon, lead?

D: Yes, and how did he become the leader, him being the least and all?

C: Well see, the Israelites had many enemies, Midianites, Amalekites, and the people of the East.

S1: Wow! The Midi . . . the Amala . . . those people. Even their names sound scary!

S2: And hard to pronounce.

C: Anyhow, the Midianites, Amalekites, and the people of the East would sweep down across the settlements of the Israelites, as far as Gaza. With their camels and their fighting men they would destroy all the crops and kill all the livestock belonging to the Israelites. And the Israelites, with no leader, seemed defenceless to stop the Midianites, Amalekites, and the people of the East.

T: This is getting serious!

C: Very serious indeed.
D: My guess is along came Gideon, offering to help.

C: Actually no.

D, incredulous:
No?

C: No. Actually along came an angel of God.

S1: You mean like, *(makes wing motions)* . . . an angel angel?

C: The angel told Gideon that he must be the leader of the Israelite people, and that Gideon must also destroy altars which the people had set up to worship other false gods.

S2: Sounds like a big job.

C: Yes, a big job indeed. But God showed Gideon that he would be with Gideon every step of the way. So Gideon raised up an army of from among the tribes of Manasseh, Zebulun, and Naphtali to battle against the Midianites, Ainalekites, and the people of the East, who were encamped in the valley of Jezreel.

T: Let me get this straight . . . Gideon had an army made up of the tribes of Manasasses . . . Manass . . .

D: . . . and Zebu . . . Zebu . . .

S1: . . . and Naphatatafa . . .

T: . . . from those tribes and they went to fight the Midian . . . Midiani . .

S2: Best just leave it that the good guys fought the bad guys . . out in some valley nearby.

C: The Israelite army was made up of thirty-two thousand men.

D, high five: Wow, thirty-two thousand men! Hey this should be a walk in the park! Be gone you Midian . . . Midianit . . you bad guys!

C: The armies of the Midianites, Ainalekites, and the people of the East totalled many hundreds of thousands.

D: Oooops!
C: But God told Gideon that thirty-two thousand men were simply too many.

T: Yah, right!

C: So God instructed Gideon to send home any man who trembled with fear at the thought of going into battle.

S1: Thirty-two thousand against hundreds of thousands . . mmmmmmmmm, let’s see, that should send home about, roughly . . thirty-two thousand Israeliite soldiers, I would guess.

C: Twenty-two thousand returned to their homes, leaving ten thousand in the army.

S1: Ten thousand men with a death wish.

C: But God told Gideon that ten thousand was still much more than what was needed. So God instructed Gideon to take the men down to the water and watch them drink. Those who got down on their knees to drink were sent home, and those who lapped the water with their tongues like a dog were kept.

T: Lapped water like a dog? You can’t be serious!

C: Very serious indeed. So this left only three hundred soldiers.

D: Wow! Well, guess it could work, a highly trained commando unit armed with Teflon shields, automatic repeating slingshots and heat sensing spears.

C: Not so! Each man was given only a trumpet, and a jar with a torch inside.

S2: This could be trouble!

C: Gideon led the Israelite army down into the valley, and on command they all blew on their trumpets, and smashed their jars.

S1: Let’s see here. Three hundred men with trumpets and jars, up against hundreds of thousands of well-armed fighting men. Could get a bit tense is my guess.

D: Must have been quite a scene.

T: Blood all over the valley.
C: Yes, quite a scene indeed. The Israelites completely destroyed the armies of the Midianites, Ainalekites, and the people of the East.

S1, S2, T & D:
No way! How could they do that?

C: It wasn’t “they”, it was God who brought the victory!

S1: You mean God made that much of a difference?

C: Yes he did, still does today.

S2: You mean God can help us defeat our enemies today, now?

C: Us plus God equals success. Always has. Always will.

D: Wait a minute. This Gideon guy was likely some kind of super-special saint kinda guy.

T: Yah, likely went to church every Sunday, never did one thing wrong in his whole life is my guess. That’s why God did all these great things for him.

C: No, actually at the moment of success Gideon sinned against God.

S1, S2, D & T all gasp

C: The people wanted Gideon to be their king but he refused. Instead he asked that every man give Gideon the gold earrings taken from the Midianites, Ainalekites, and the people of the East who had been killed.

S1: How could Gideon ever wear that many gold earrings?

C: Didn’t use them, had them melted down, sixty pounds of gold in all, and had an ephod made for himself.

S1: Ephod?

S2: Solar powered chariot is my guess.

C: Not even close. A vest, a tunic.

D: A sixty pound vest?

T: No wonder he walked bent over.

C: Point is that even though Gideon sinned, still God used him.
S1: You know, I gotta say that is one cool story.

S2: Yah, cool! And that guy Gideon was one cool dude.

D: Cool, yah, but is there, like, a moral to the story?

T: Duh! How could you miss it? Me without God equals panic and confusion. Me plus God equals success, victory, calm and comfort.

S1 & S2: Hey, that’s cool. A formula for success

C: The formula for success! And yes, way cool! Way, way cool!

lights out