



3rd - 5th

September 24-25, 2016

DATE

Gideon

LESSON TITLE

Joshua 6-7, Isaiah 40:28

WHERE TO FIND IT

God is in control.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you all have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Set an example during crucial parts of the hour: for instance, during worship! Kids will feel much more open and encouraged to sing and dance if they see YOU singing and dancing with high energy and a smile on your face!

check-in/out

As kids leave, make sure they have a **prayer poster**, and remind them to show it to their parents, and use it as a part of prayer this week!

large group heads up

Today's story is about Gideon. God asked Gideon to be the one to lead the Israelites in battle, but Gideon was afraid. God patiently showed him that when God asks us to do something, he will help us do it.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

FOLLOW THE LEADER

- Split kids into **pairs** and give each pair **1 blindfold**. One kid will be blindfolded first, and the other kid will be the "leader."
- Set **obstacles** around an open area (Make it fun to step around, over or through different objects. Kids leaders can make up their own paths!) You could use pieces of 8x11" paper, large tear-off sheets of paper, room chairs, etc.
- The kids who are blindfolded have to concentrate to hear their partner's voice and listen to their instructions to get from one side of the room to the other.
 - You can have multiple pairs of kids going at the same time.
 - If there are a lot of kids and you need to save time, this can be done in groups, with several kids guiding the one who is blindfolded.
- After each blindfolded kid has made it across the room, the two kids in each pair should **trade roles**. The kid who was first blindfolded now gets to direct the other partner (who was previously the leader) through the obstacle course.

TALK ABOUT IT

- Were you scared to follow your partner's voice? Why or why not?
- What's one thing you've done, even though you were afraid?

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) understand how God helped Gideon and the Israelites win the battle, (2) recognize that Gideon had to give up control to God and (3) identify how God is in control of our lives too!

Why? It's difficult to admit that we're not in control of our own lives, but it's necessary if we want to have a close relationship with our creator! We just have to admit that sometimes we're afraid, and we need His help.

Tip: Tell kids beforehand that **everyone** will get a turn to do the finger trap!

small group

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Split kids into **pairs**. Each pair of kids gets a **Chinese finger trap**.
- One kid puts their fingers into the Chinese finger trap, then they try to pull both fingers out at the same time slowly (*This should cause the trap to tighten.*)
 - **ASK:** How is this similar to us trying to do things on our own? (*We are trying to take control and solve the problem by ourselves without help. It just gets harder and harder*)
- Next, have the kid *without* the finger trap on their fingers, gently squeeze the ends of the finger trap as the other kid slowly pulls their fingers apart (This may take a few tries!) What happens now? (*The trap should release both fingers.*)
 - **ASK:** How is this similar to God's help in our lives? (*We have to give up control to God—surrender—so that He can help us with our problems.*)
- Let kids switch switch roles, and have the other kid put the finger trap on. Then, as a group, discuss different things each kid can give up or surrender to God. If that's confusing, have kids simply acknowledge something they can't do on their own and invite God to help.
- Make sure to give a finger trap to everyone at the end of the activity, so that each kid can take one home.

REVIEW THE STORY

- Distribute **images from the Gideon's Story Image Set**. Give each pair of kids an **image** (*If it's a small group, give some pairs two images. If it's a big group, some kids will have the same image.*)
- Give kids a few minutes to look at their image and talk about what's happening in the picture.

(Continued on next page.)

- Next, have the pairs take turns and describe to the rest of their small group what's in their image (Try to have kids get in order of the events in the story.)

PRAYER POSTER

- **Pray** together as a group, and tell kids to think of one hard thing they're facing right now. Something that they need to rely on God to help them with.
- Give each kid a **prayer poster**, and tell them that it has lots of ideas about how to pray to God throughout the week. When we pray to God, it's a way of giving him control, and relying on him to help us!

Extra time? Let kids make a new obstacle course, and play the blindfold game from Connect Time!

special notes

Today's script calls for some props: **2 cotton balls** and a **bottle of water**.

Before Large Group starts, count the kids in your room, and give about two-thirds of them a **red sticker**; give about one-third of them a **blue sticker**; and give about 3-5 kids a **yellow sticker**. (If you have a really small group, only give out 1-2 yellow stickers.)

presenter tips

You can find today's God's Story video on crossroadskidsclub.net/weekend.

script

WELCOME AND WORSHIP

Main Goal: Review Connect Time and actively worship.

Notes:

***Click to play intro music.**

- **Welcome:** Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. We're so glad to have you here! Great job navigating through that obstacle course; you all did a great job working together.
- **Ask:** Before we get started today, we're going to spend some time with God by singing and dancing. It's a way of focusing on Him and giving him our time and attention. So let's all stand up and sing!
- **Music Video: You Are**
- **Music Video: Listen**
- **Say:** Okay, go ahead and have a seat. We talked about how that obstacle course was hard, because you couldn't see where you were going, and you probably weren't totally sure if you were hearing your partner's voice, or someone else's voice!
- **Ask:** So with all that in mind, what did you have to do, in order to get across the room? (Let kids respond.) Yep, you had to trust your partners! You listened to them, and did what they told you.
- **Ask:** How exactly did it feel when you had to trust them, even though you couldn't see, and didn't know what was in front of you? (Let kids respond.) Yep, maybe a little worried, unsure, or fearful. You were basically giving them control over where you went, even though you chose to listen!

THE ISRAELITES FORGET THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL

Main Goal: Review how God rescued the Israelites in the past, but they still chose to turn away from him.

Notes:

- **Say:** Today we're going to talk about how following God is kind of the same way. Sometimes, we have to trust in him, even if we're not sure where he's leading us. We have to give control over to him, instead of trying to control everything ourselves!
- **Say:** We've been learning all about the Israelites, God's special family, and how he rescued them over and over again.
- **(Click to show image of God's rescues.)**
- **Say:** He rescued them from slavery in Egypt. He rescued them while they wandered around in the wilderness. He even rescued them when a giant city called Jericho was in the way of their new home. Surely, the Israelites would never forget all those things God did, right? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Well, unfortunately, they *did* forget. They turned away from God, and forgot all the ways he had rescued them. Because of that, they were pushed out of their home by an enemy, called the Midianites.
- **Say:** Sometimes, we go through really tough things, just like the Israelites did. We live in a broken world, and even though God can rescue us, things are aren't always easy, are they?
- **Say:** Well, even though the Israelites forgot God, do you think he forgot about them? (Let kids respond.) Nope, He came up with plan to rescue them again. And He used a guy named Gideon to do it!
- **(Click to show image of Gideon.)**

GOD HAS A PLAN

Main Goal: Introduce Gideon and see why didn't trust God at first.

Notes:

- **Say:** Gideon was a soldier in the Israelite army, and God wanted him to help rescue the Israelites. We're going to watch a video and see how God uses Gideon as a part of his plan. As you watch, try to figure out why Gideon didn't want to do it at first!
- **Video: God's Story / Gideon**
- **Ask:** So why do you think Gideon didn't want to lead at first? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, he thought he wasn't strong enough! Here's what Gideon said:
- **Slide: Judges 6:15 "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"**

GOD CALLS GIDEON

Main Goal: Identify why Gideon doubted God's calling.

- **Ask:** Can someone explain what Gideon is saying here? (Let kids respond.) Yep, basically, he doesn't think he's good enough. He thinks he's too weak to do what God wants him to do.
- **Ask:** Have you ever felt like Gideon? Maybe you thought you couldn't do something important? (Let kids respond, and then share a personal example.) We all feel that way sometimes. But do you think God still wants to use us, even if WE think we're not good enough? (Let kids respond.) Yes!

GOD PROVES HIS POWER

Main Goal: Understand the miracles God did to show his power.

Notes:

- **Say:** Because Gideon wasn't convinced that God could do what he said he would do, he asked God to do some miracles first. A miracle is something amazing that ONLY God can do.
- **Say:** First, Gideon asked God to make some fleece wet, and the ground dry. Fleece feels kind of like this cotton ball (Hold up a **cotton ball**.) So when Gideon left the fleece out overnight, God made the fleece wet (Put a few drops of **water** on the cotton ball) but left the ground dry!
- **Ask:** Do you think Gideon trusted God then, or did he ask God to do something ELSE? (Let kids respond.) You're right, Gideon still didn't trust God.
- **Say:** This time, he told God to make the fleece dry, and the ground wet! (Hold up the second **cotton ball** and sprinkle some **water** on the floor with your fingers.) Did God do it? (Let kids respond.) Yes!
- **Say:** Remember, Gideon was afraid. He thought the enemy was too big and powerful to beat. He didn't trust God to help him. He was worrying, and trying to control the situation.

GOD PREPARES GIDEON

Main Goal: Explain why Gideon could trust God, and see how God prepared him to rescue the Israelites.

- **Say:** The thing is, God was in charge all along! No matter how young, or small, or weak Gideon was, God could help him save the Israelites, because God is always in control.
- **Say:** When Gideon FINALLY believed God, he went and gathered thousands and thousands of soldiers together to fight the battle. It was a pretty big army!
- **Say:** Everybody should have gotten a sticker today, right? (Hand out stickers if any kids got skipped or came in late.) Well, as I tell the rest of today's story, pay attention to the color of sticker you have!

GOD DOES THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Main Goal: Actively show how God reduced the Israelites army to only 300, all to show that only HE is in control!

Notes:

- **Say:** Let's pretend that everybody in this room makes up the army that Gideon gathered. He started out with about 30,000 soldiers. Everybody stand up. (Let kids respond.) When Gideon showed God the army, what did God say? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yep, he said to make the army *smaller!* So Gideon told all the soldiers that whoever is afraid, they should go home. Now, if you have a red sticker, sit down. You're one of the soldiers who went home first and was scared. Sorry! (Let kids respond.) Now our army is a LOT smaller!
- **Ask:** If you were Gideon, what would you be thinking right about now? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, you might be a little confused, right? Normally, a bigger army would be better.
- **Say:** Next, God said, "There are STILL too many!" So what did He do? (Let kids respond.) Yep, He made the army even smaller! He told the soldiers to go drink from a stream, and whoever used their hands to drink, could stay. But everybody else had to go. Now, if you have a blue sticker, sit down (Let kids respond.) You are the soldiers who left after drinking straight from the stream!
- **Say:** Now there were only 300 soldiers left! Everybody who has a yellow sticker and is still standing, you are the tiny group of 300 soldiers! Okay, you can sit down now too.
- **Say:** The enemy had way more soldiers than that. But Gideon had given control over to God, so he trusted his plan.

THE BATTLE IS WON

Main Goal: See how God helped his family win the battle.

Notes:

- **Ask:** Do you remember what God told Gideon to do next? (Let kids respond.) Yep, he said that Gideon's army should sneak up on the enemy at night time, while the Midianites were sleeping. Then, they should blow their horns, and crash their jars with torches inside!
- **(Click to show image of torches in clay jars and horns.)** This might seem like a strange way to win a battle, but God doesn't always do things the way WE would do them. He does things differently, to show that he's in control, and not us.
- **Ask:** When the Israelites blew their horns and broke their jars, the Midianites all woke up and got confused! They started fighting themselves, and ended up losing the battle!

LETTING GOD TAKE CONTROL

Main Goal: Recognize how we fear or worry just like Gideon did, but we can surrender that fear to God.

Notes:

- **Say:** God showed his family that the only way they could win the fight...was with HIM! That's why He only wanted a small group of soldiers. He didn't want the Israelites to think they won all by themselves.
- **Ask:** Do you ever try to do things on your own, without God's help? (Let kids respond.) Me too. Sometimes, I want to be in charge; I want to be the one in control!
- **Ask:** How could we let God be in control of our lives instead? How do we GIVE that control over to him? (Let kids respond.) Great answers. We can do things like pray to God, listen to him, and ask him for help.
- **Say:** Another really important part of giving control to God...is OBEYING him. We can follow Him, and do what he says! When we do those things, we give control over to Him, instead of trying to do everything ourselves. There's a special word for that; it's called "surrendering." And when we surrender, we need to be willing to go through hard times, and wait for the good things God has planned.

RESPONSE TIME AND PRAYER

Main Goal: Let kids actively respond to the Holy Spirit and close the lesson with prayer.

Notes:

- **Say:** Let's show God that we want to surrender to him right now. (Have a few volunteers pass out a cotton ball to each kid. Set out several plastic bins along the stage area.) Everyone will get a cotton ball, kind of like the fleece that Gideon asked God to make wet earlier in the story. It represents something that we want to hold onto, something we want to keep to ourselves instead of asking God to control.
- **Say:** Close your eyes, and think of one specific thing that you could surrender to God. Maybe it's something you're afraid to do, or something you're nervous about. Maybe you just need God to help you do something that seems too big. (Give kids a minute of silence.)
- **Say:** Okay, open your eyes. There's some plastic bins up here by me. Whenever you're ready to surrender what you just thought of in your head, come up here and drop your cotton ball in a bin. (Let kids respond and then lead into prayer when everyone is done.)
- **Pray:** God, we need you, just like Gideon did. Please help us rely on you, and help us with whatever we're afraid of. We love you so much. Amen!

Dismiss kids to small groups.

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per room: 20 pieces of 8.5x11 paper, several pieces of large tear off paper, chairs

Per pair of kids: 1 blindfold (reused)

small group supplies

Per kid: 1 chinese finger trap (OT: IN-9/44), 1 prayer poster

Per group: Bible, markers, 1 set of story images (p 11-22), reused

- The Israelites turned away from God and worshipped idols; God let the Midianites take over the Israelites home/farms; God appeared to Gideon; Gideon asked God to do miracles (wet fleece and dry ground, dry fleece and wet ground); Gideon calls together a big army; God tells Gideon to send all the soldiers home who are scared; God tells Gideon to send all the soldier home who drink with their mouth from the stream; Gideon has an army of 300 soldiers; Gideon sneaks to the Midianite camp and heard about the dream; Gideon prepares for battle (put his army in groups and they all carry trumpets/torches in jars); the midianites get confused and attack each other, losing the battle (Image descriptions on Page 22)

large group supplies

Per large group: Bible, 2 cotton balls, 1 bottle of water(to be reused at each service)

Red stickers (2/3 of kids) Blue stickers (1/3 of kids) Yellow sticker (5 per group)

Per kid: 1 cotton ball

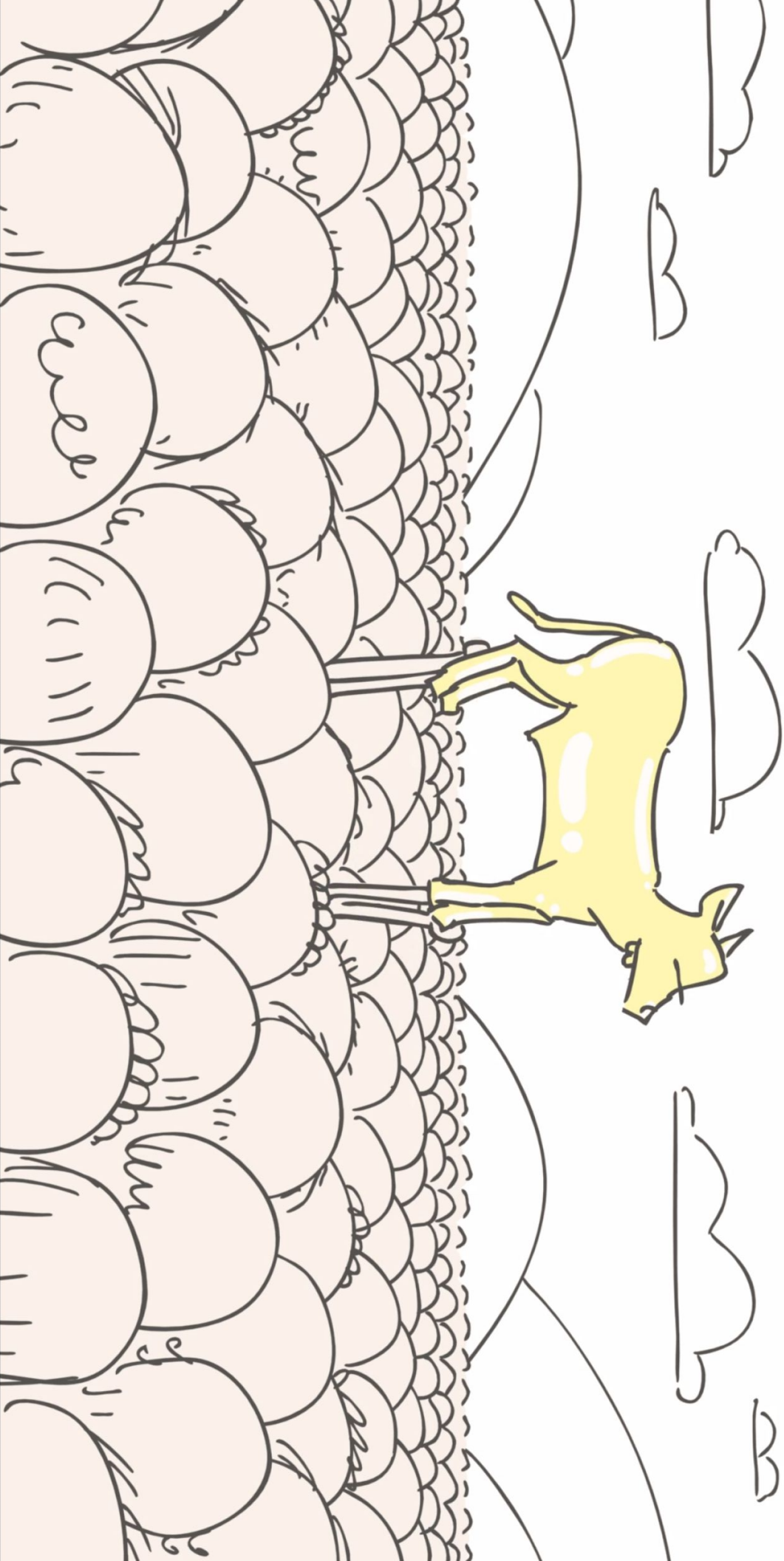
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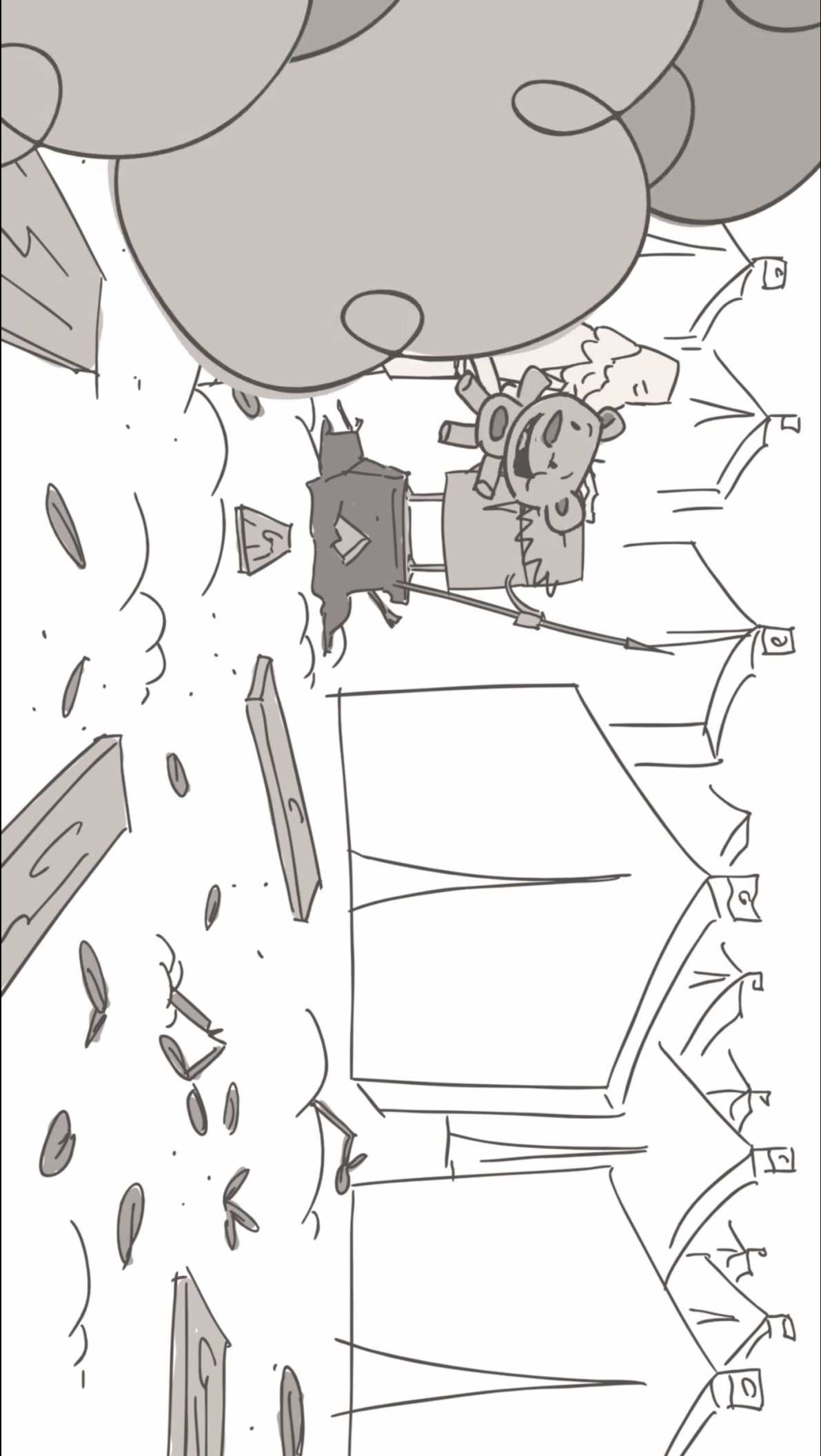
1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Music Video: You Are (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kf7f86EzTA&list=PLactlIEFMk_LZuur9s2JRbGyvuNBtMstx&index=16)
3. Music Video: Listen (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyWv43MUXzI&feature=youtu.be>)
4. Image: God's Rescues (Put the following 3 images on 1 slide: Egypt rescue; wilderness rescue; jericho rescue)
5. Image: Gideon (waiting on God's Story screencap)
6. Video: God's Story / Gideon (video link not yet available)
7. Slide: Judges 6:15 "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"
8. Image: Torches in clay jars and horns

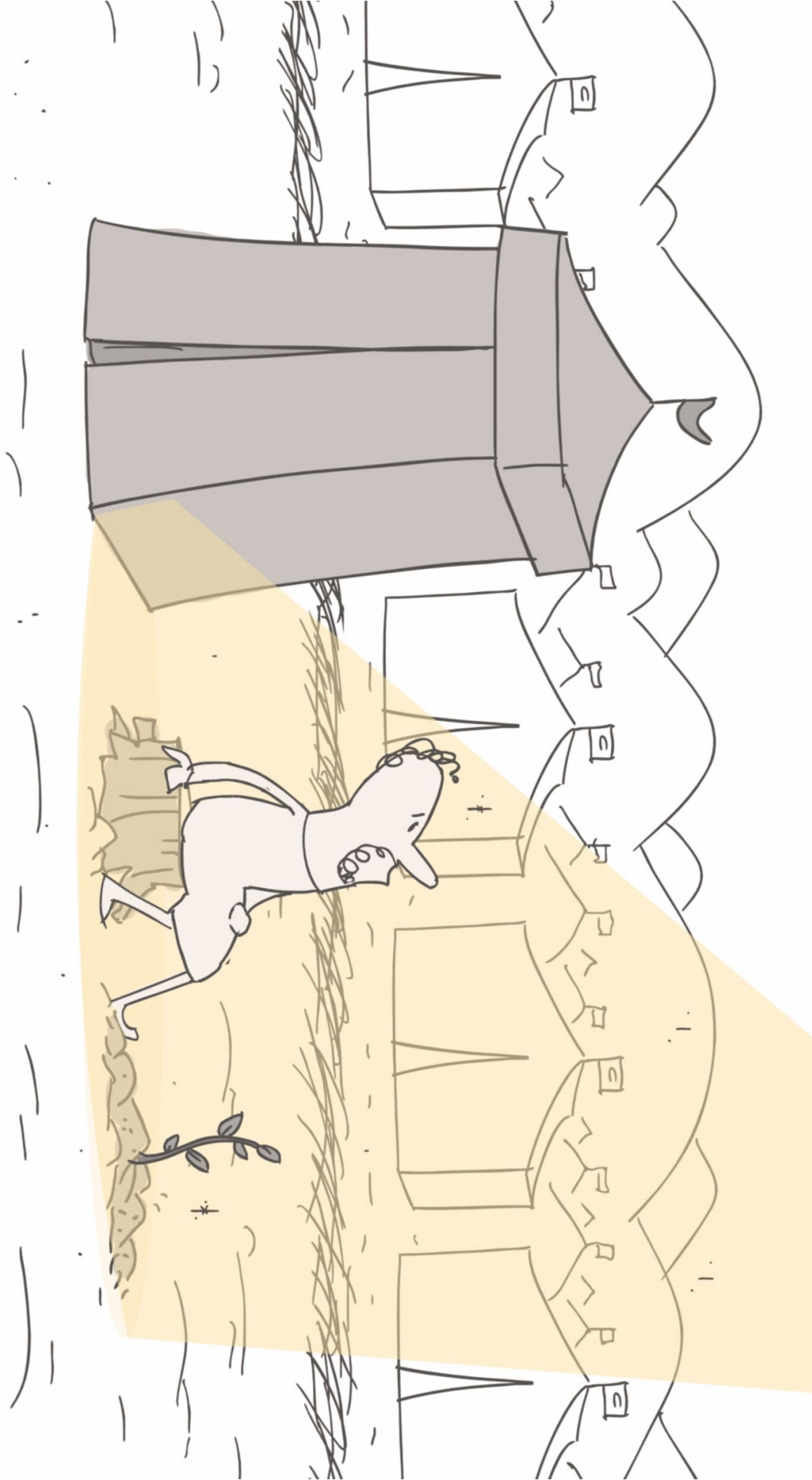
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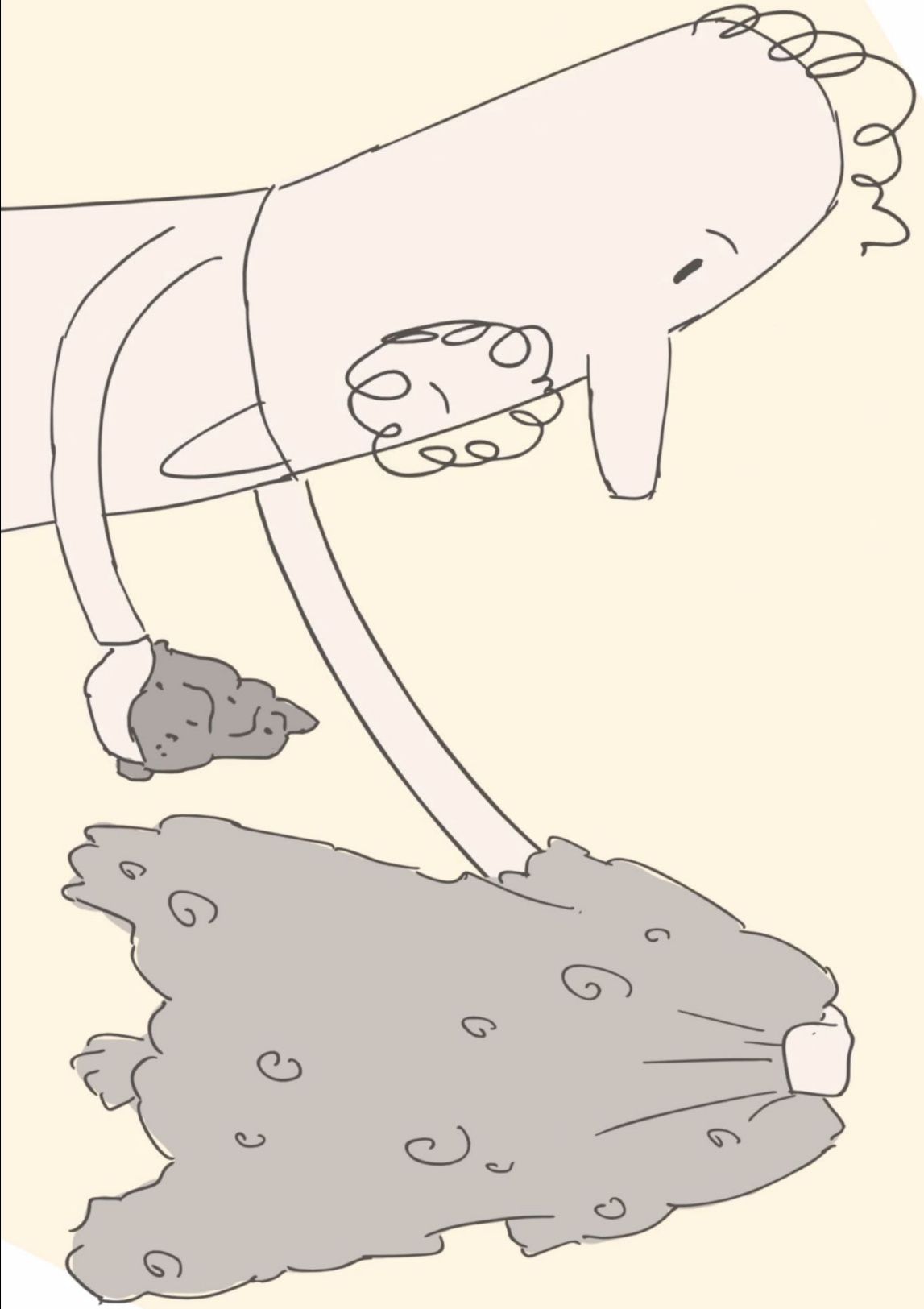
Tell me about Gideon.

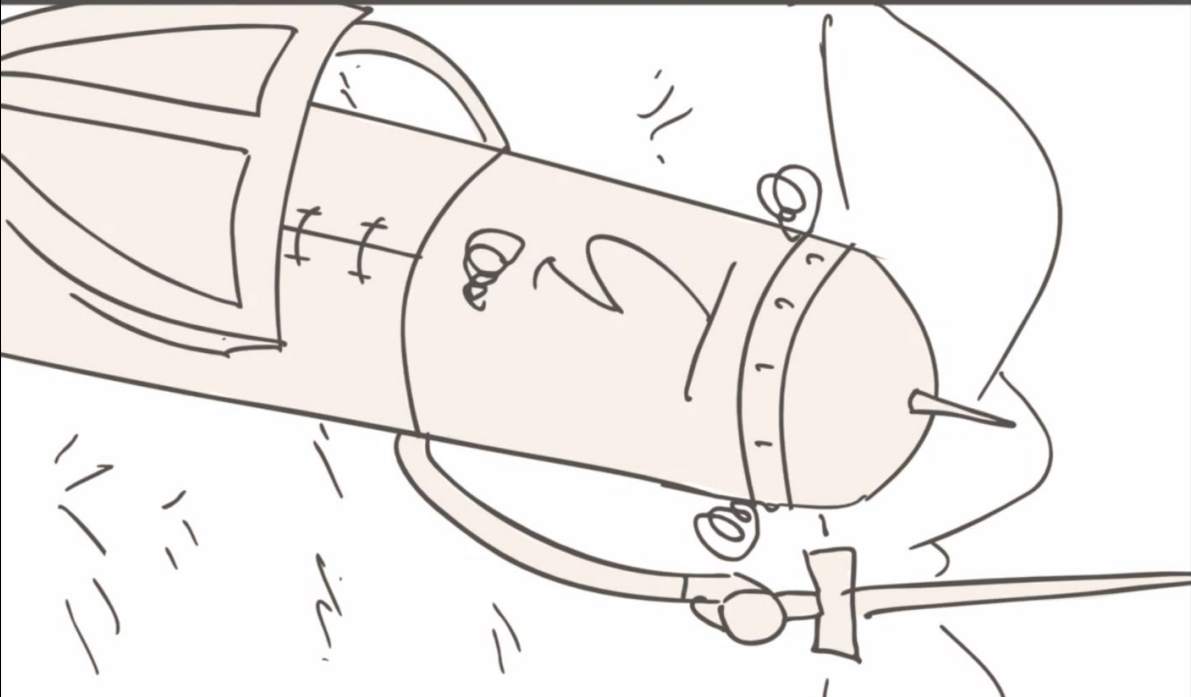
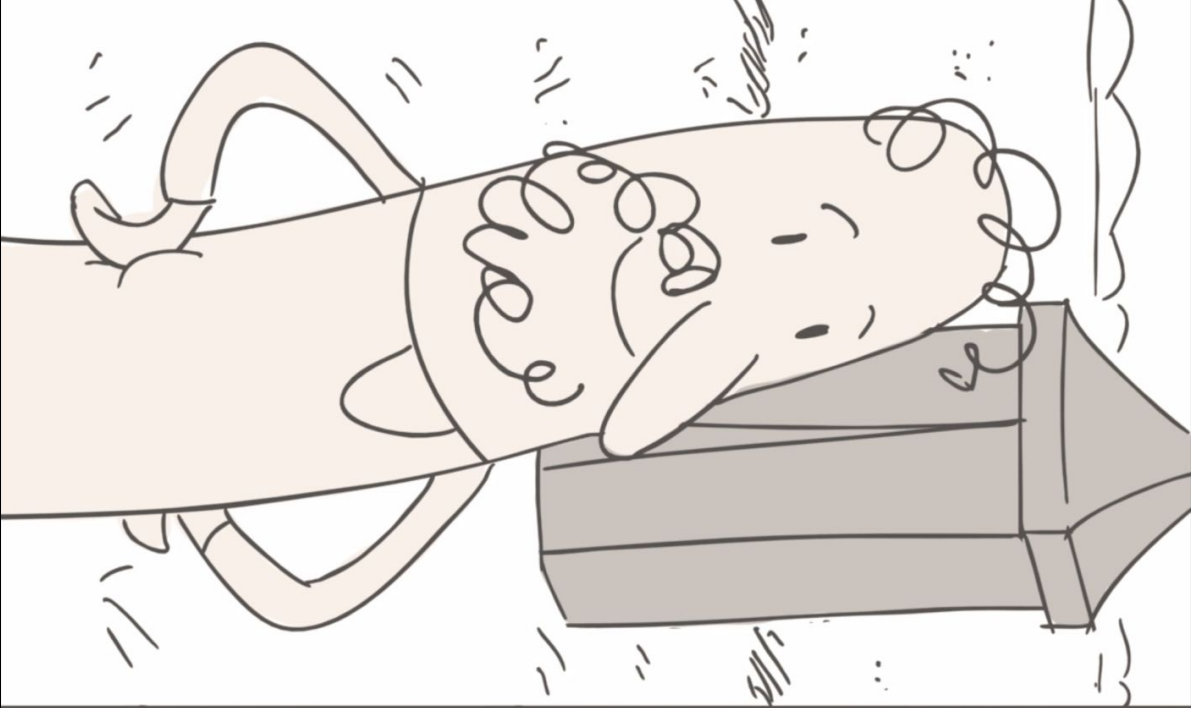
How did God win the battle?

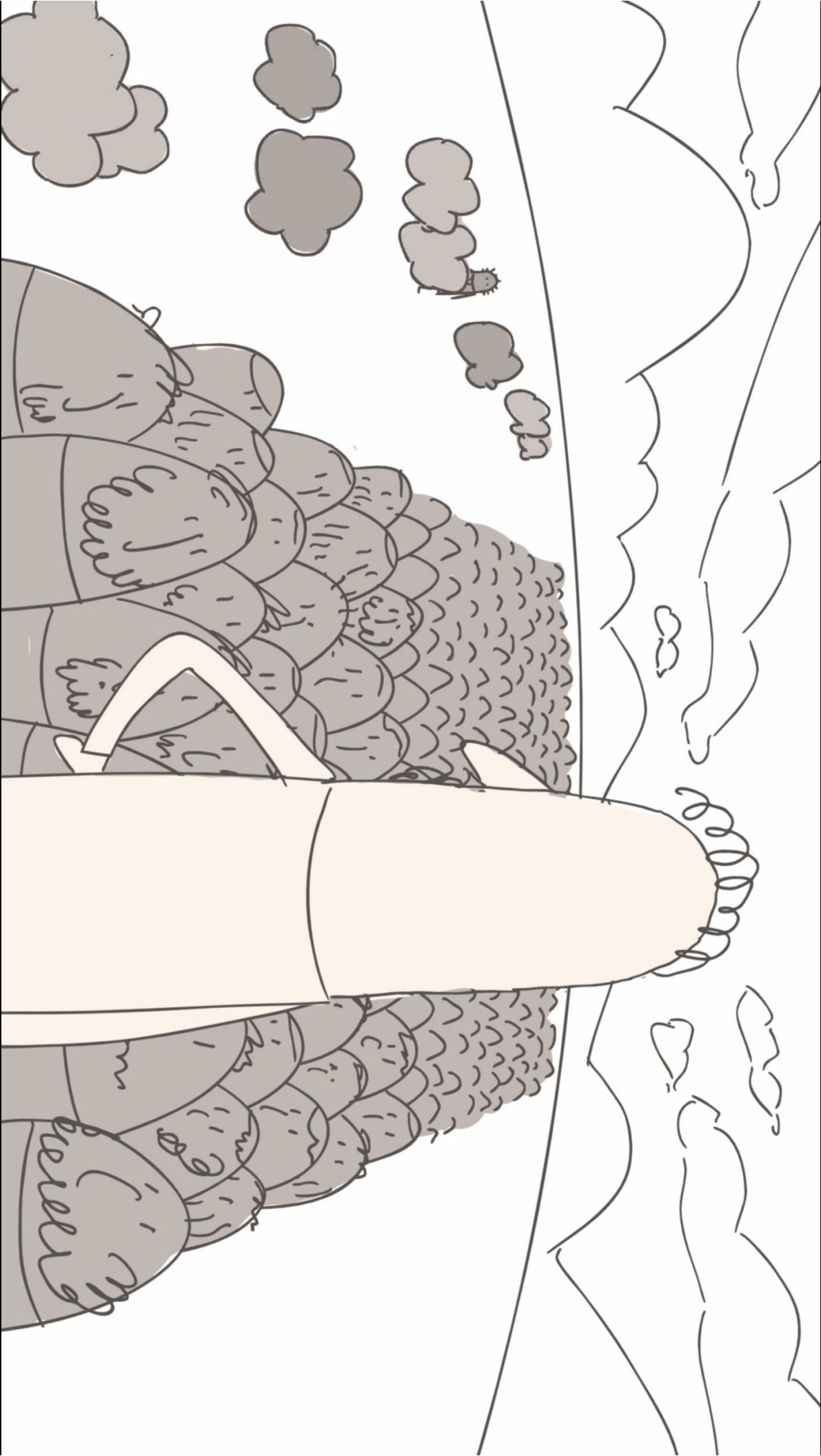




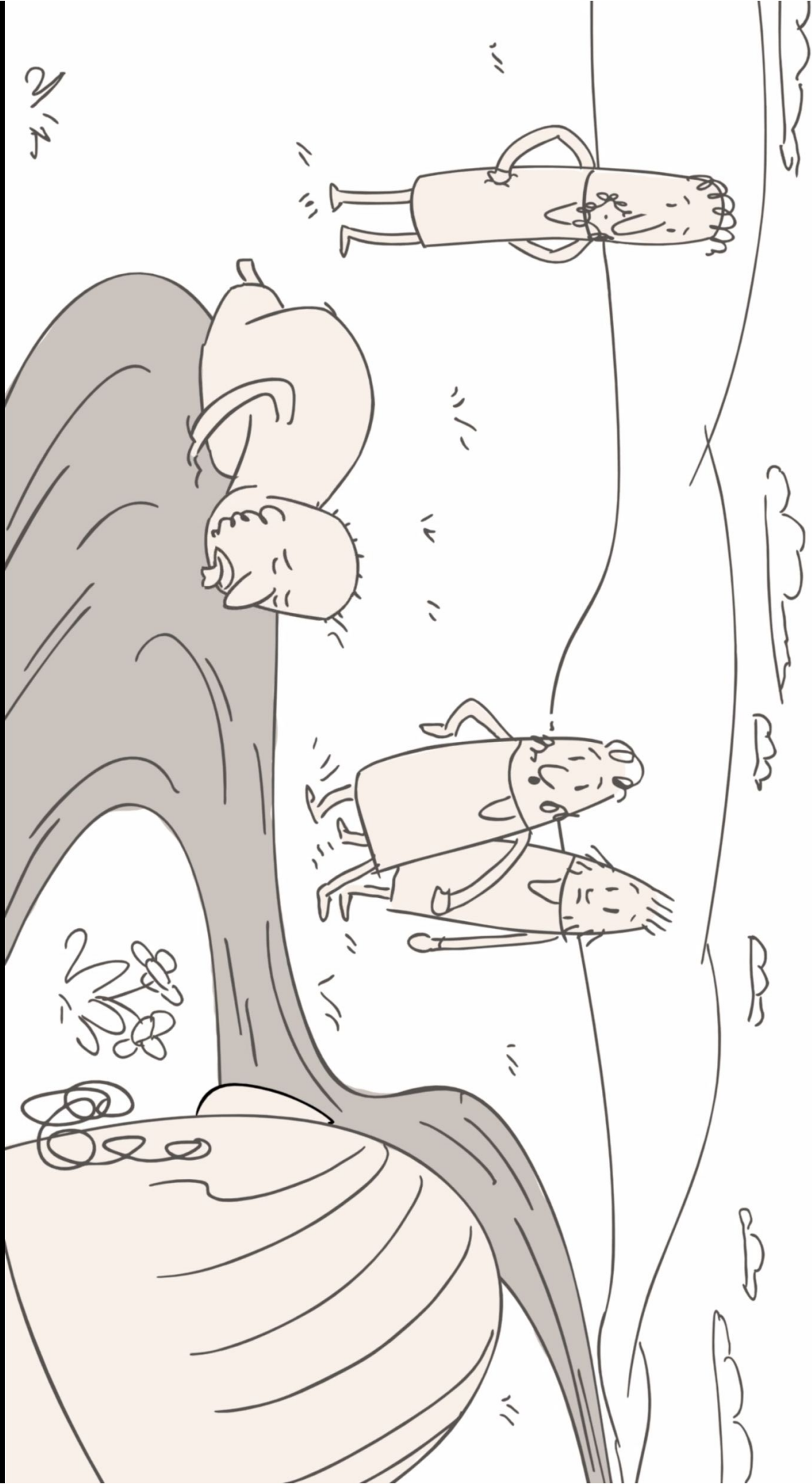


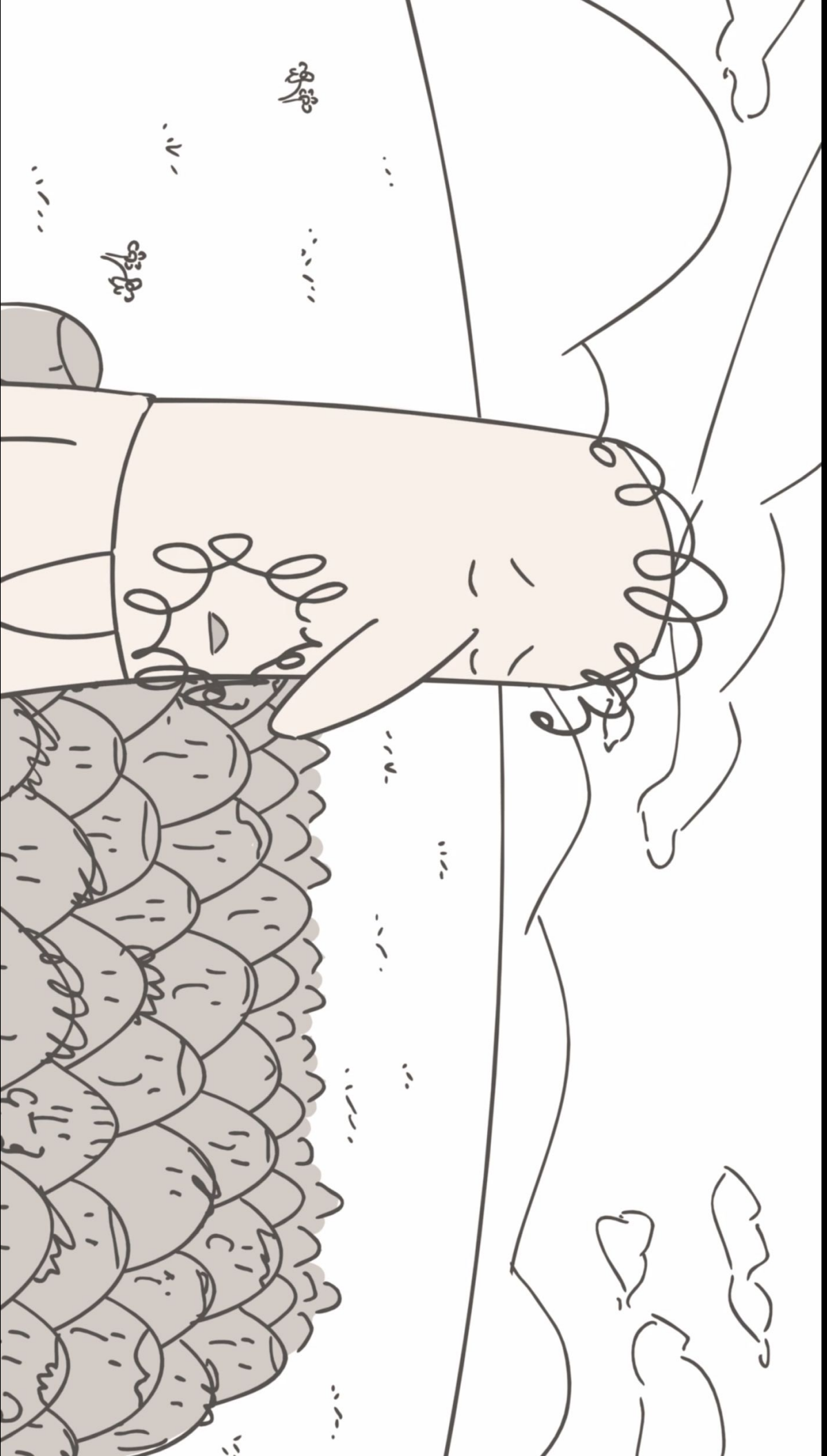


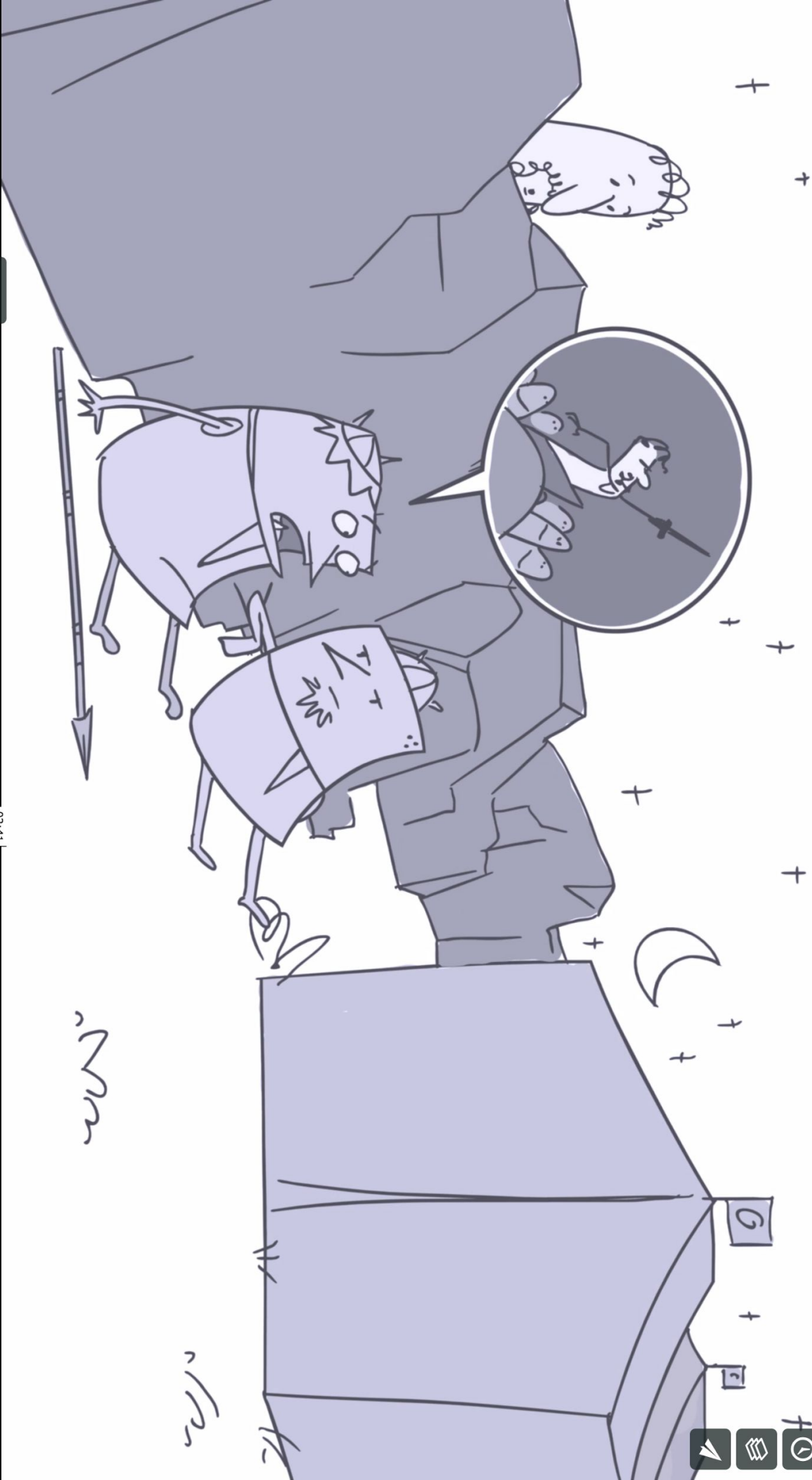




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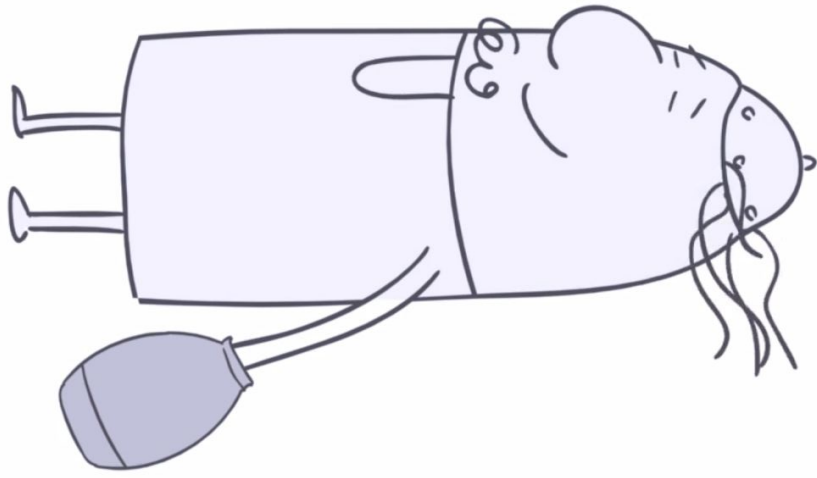
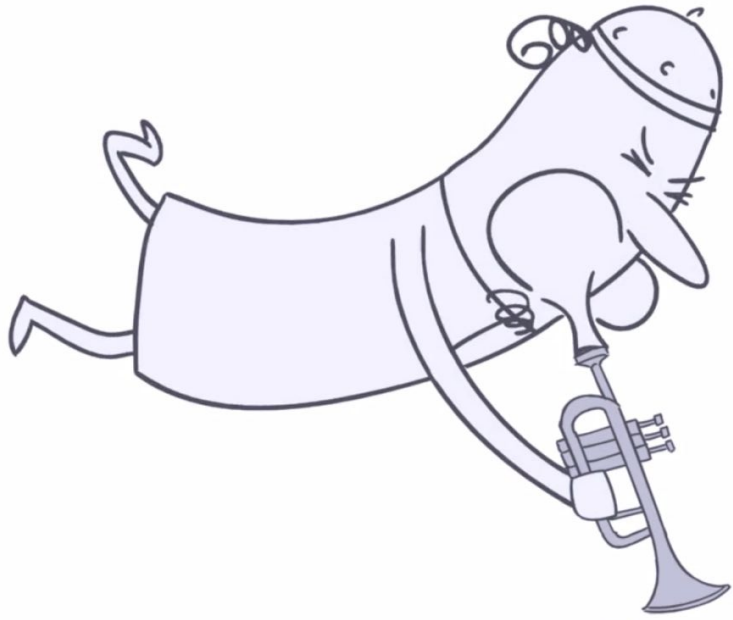


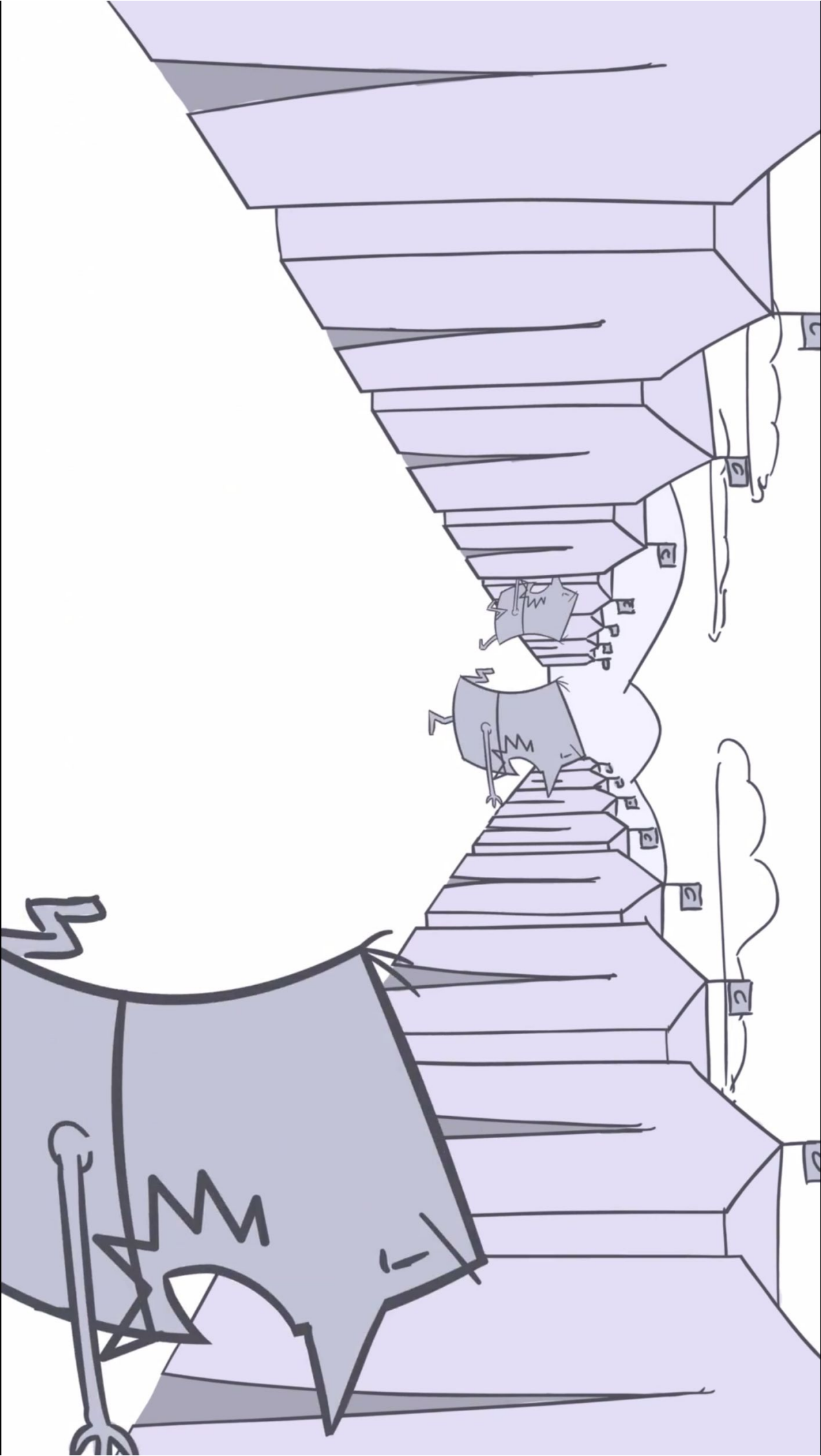




HD







Story Images:

- The Israelites turned away from God and worshiped idols
- God let the Midianites take over the Israelites' home/farms
- God appeared to Gideon; Gideon asked God to do miracles (wet fleece and dry ground, dry fleece and wet ground)
- Gideon called together a big army
- God told Gideon to send home all the soldiers who were scared
- God told Gideon to send home all the soldiers who drank from the stream with their mouths; Gideon was left with an army of 300 soldiers
- Gideon sneaked to the Midianite camp and heard about the dream
- Gideon prepared for battle (put his army in groups and they all carry trumpets/torches in jars)
- The Midianites got confused and attacked each other, losing the battle