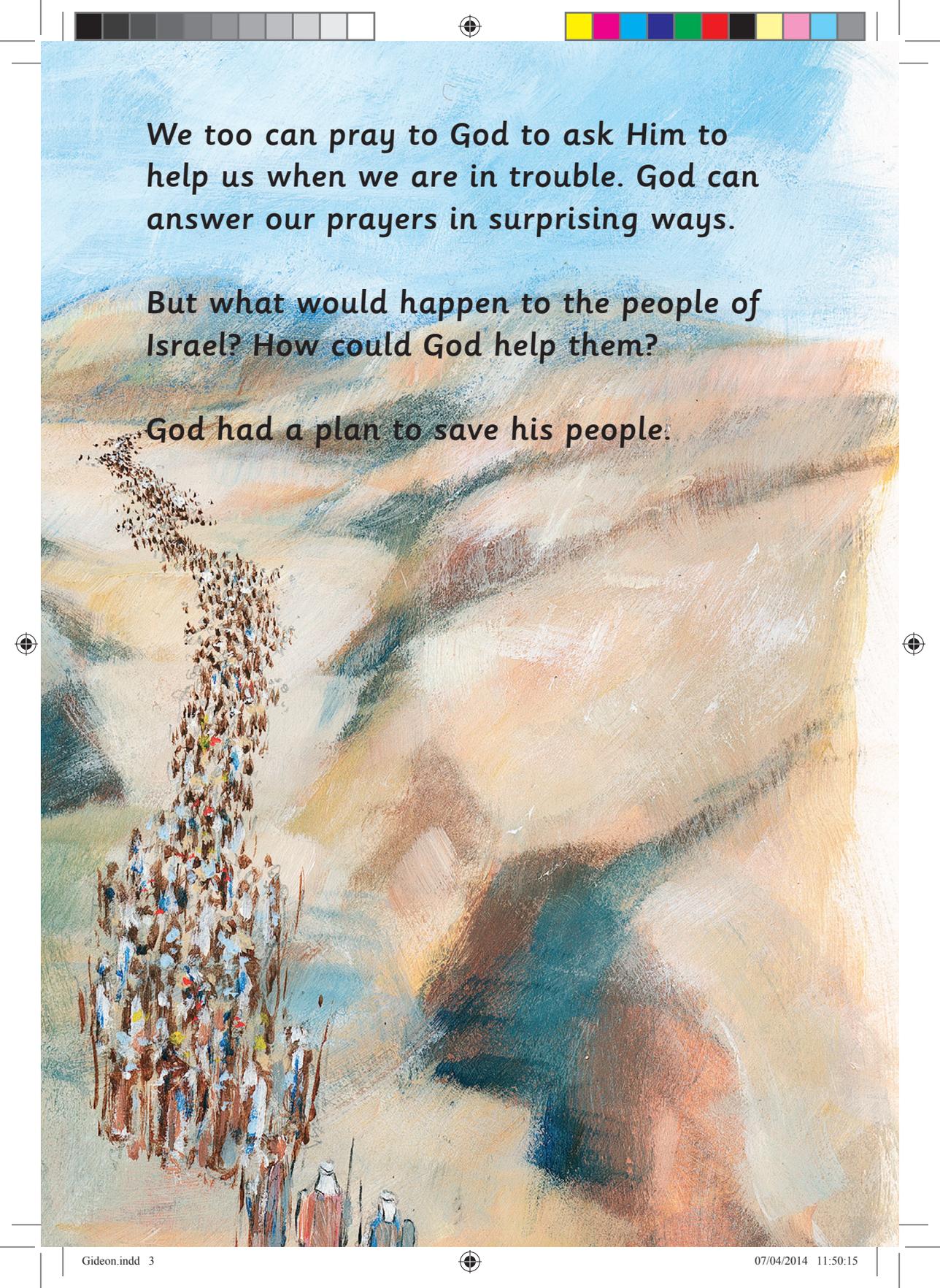
The background is a textured, painterly illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, a man with a beard, wearing a blue and black striped turban and a brown and white striped robe, is seen from the back, holding a wooden staff. He is looking out over a valley with rolling hills and mountains in the distance. The sky is a mix of light blue and white, suggesting a bright, hazy day. The overall style is reminiscent of a religious painting or a storybook illustration.

Long ago a man called Gideon lived in the land of Israel. At that time there was trouble in this land. Enemies from the land of Midian raided the farms. They took away the sheep and cattle and stole the corn and grapes.

The people of Israel were frightened.

They prayed to God to help them.



We too can pray to God to ask Him to help us when we are in trouble. God can answer our prayers in surprising ways.

But what would happen to the people of Israel? How could God help them?

God had a plan to save his people:

One day Gideon was hiding behind a wine press so that none of the Midianite soldiers would come to steal his food.





An angel of God came and sat down under an oak tree near where Gideon was working.

‘God has chosen you, Gideon, to save your country from the Midianites’, said the angel. Gideon was very surprised.

‘How shall I save Israel?’ he asked. ‘My family is poor and I am not great and important.’

