



GOD'S KIND OF HERO

God's Incredible Plan • U6 #3 1st-3rd Grade • Dec. 14, 2025

Concept

God is trustworthy.

Goal

Students will learn that God's kind of hero is someone who acts in faith (trust), even though they are afraid.

Passage

Judges 7:2-22

Key Verse: "The Lord said to him, 'Surely I will be with you, and it will seem as if you are fighting only one man.'" Judges 6:16

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
Lesson: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mighty Acts of God, Starr Meade• Shofar "trumpet"• Pitcher• Torch that will fit in the pitcher	Activity Stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pictures of various superheroes, 2/child• Markers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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The events of the Book of Judges cover the period of Israel's history from the death of Joshua to the beginnings of the monarchy. The time of Judges is the antithesis of the time of Joshua. Under Joshua's leadership, the Israelites conquered the land through dependence on the Lord and His power. After Joshua's death, however, the people became disobedient and idolatrous.

During this time most of the opposition to the Israelites came from beyond her borders, i.e., Moab, Midian and Ammon. "Tragically, the Israelites even fought among themselves. Ephraim was ravaged by Manasseh (ch. 12), and Benjamin was almost annihilated by the other tribes (chs. 20-21).

Between the days of Joshua and Samuel, Israel plummeted to moral and spiritual disaster. Over and over the pattern of sin followed by oppression was repeated. Occasionally God raised up a Deborah or a Gideon to turn the people back to himself, but the intervals of revival were all too brief."

[1] "Few books portray so complete a picture of human depravity as does Judges. A nation that before Joshua solemnly swore to obey God quickly intermarried with pagans and turned to other gods. Morality sank to great depths as son stole from mother (17:2-3)..."

[2] The Book of Judges illustrates very well the cyclical nature of Israel's trust in and disobedience to God. Prior to the entrance of each judge, Israel would turn away from God, intermingle with the Canaanite people and worship their gods. The anger of God burned against Israel and He delivered them into the hands of oppressors. In their oppression they would cry out to Him, and He would send a judge to their aid. They would follow God for a while, but invariably they would go back to worshipping idols. And so the cycle began again. Thus, the purpose of the book is to show that there was a direct correlation between Israel's spiritual condition, and her physical and material situations.

We have chosen Gideon as the judge to highlight because he was not a man of great courage nor was he particularly respected. His successful judgeship proves once again that God is sovereign and will use and strengthen those who trust and obey Him. He indeed "has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong... that no man should boast before God" (1 Cor. 1:27, 29).

[1] Zondervan Reference Software, The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Judges Introduction - Historical Background.

[2] Ibid, Judges Introduction --Theological Values.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Select the best storyteller on your team to teach this Lesson. With some animation, it will be captivating and quite fun for the children.

Activity Stations

- **Craft – Superheroes**
 - **Instructions:** Color the pictures and bring to the lesson.
- **Missions Prayer**
 - **Instructions:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving campaign.
- **Giving Discussion:**
 - **Instructions:** Before starting the lesson, remind the students how important it is to give to others during Christmas time. Talk about how it's really easy to think of all the things that we want for Christmas. But most of the children in the world don't get to have a Christmas. God wants us to remember these kids and to give to them. (Hold up giving globe.) Who can tell me who this money is going to? (Refer to the giving campaign) Later, we will talk about specific things you could do to bring in money to help with this.

Introduction Lg. Group

What do you think makes a hero? Do you think a hero is someone with big muscles, someone who's not afraid, someone who is really smart? Is a hero like the superheroes in the pictures you colored? (Allow children to respond.) In our lesson today, we are going to be talking about God's kind of hero!

Lesson Lg. Group

Before we get into our story for this week, let's talk about what happened last week as a reminder. Do you remember that we talked about how Joshua asked the people to choose whom they would serve? They all said they would serve God, didn't they? Well, they served God while Joshua was alive, but after he died, the people started to forget about God just as Joshua warned them they would. They began to worship idols, made-up gods, and bow down to them. They also married people from Canaan who worshipped these idols. God was angry. Because they had been told what would happen if they didn't choose to serve God, He allowed them to have their way. He did not protect them anymore so the armies of other nations defeated Israel.

The people cried out to God and He gave them new leaders called judges. These judges would first lead the people in victory over their enemies, and then rule the people as they administered justice. One of Israel's judges was named Gideon. He was not a brave man at all. He was afraid to be a judge. But you know what? Gideon loved God and decided to believe and obey Him. He knew he could trust God to give him the power to do what God told him to do even though he was afraid.

Lesson Continued

Can you think of anyone else who did what God told him to do even though he was afraid? (Give children some time to think about the question. When they give a name, ask them to tell you what they were afraid of. It would be good for the team to have some ideas as well.)

Let's see what happened to Gideon.

Instructions: Use the provided props – shofar (trumpet), pitcher and torch – in the appropriate places as you read the story on pp. 69-71 in *The Mighty Acts of God*.

Note: Before you begin the story, have the children put their hands around their mouths and make a loud sound like a shofar (trumpet) and pretend they are holding a torch. When you come to the point in the story about the 300 men blowing their trumpets, cue the children to blow their "shofars" and wave their torches.

After you have told the story:

God did a miracle that night! There is no way that they could have beaten such the huge Midianite army without God's help. Gideon knew this very well. The people were very thankful for Gideon's help and they asked him to be their ruler. Gideon said, "I will not rule over you; the Lord shall be your ruler."

So Gideon and his soldiers learned an important lesson that night. They learned it is okay to feel afraid, but when you trust God He is always there for you! He is trustworthy and will never let you down. Our key verse will help us remember this: "The LORD said to him, 'Surely I will be with you, and it will seem as if you are fighting only one man'" (Judges 6:16).

Remember how we talked about what we often think a hero is like? (fearless, etc.) Do you know that Gideon wasn't any of these things, but he was a real hero? He was a real hero because he had faith in God and trusted him even though he wasn't all that strong or brave like all of these superheroes we think of. He chose to act based on what is true! God did an important thing through Gideon even though he was a fearful, ordinary man.

Good News

Jesus was the greatest hero who ever lived because He chose to die on the cross to pay for all our sins. Do you think Jesus was afraid to go to the cross? The Bible says He was. He was afraid because He knew how horrible the punishment would be, but He told God that He would go through that because He loves us so much. Jesus died on the cross so we don't have to be punished for our sins. If He had decided He didn't feel like dying for us, we could not be forgiven. Does this mean that everyone is automatically forgiven for their sins? (Get responses.)

Lesson Continued

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Transition

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

Optional Activity

That's right, you have to tell God that you want to be forgiven. If you ask God to forgive your sins, He will forgive all of your past, present, and future sins - once for all time!

Let's try something that will help each of you see what it is like to trust even when you are scared.

Object Lesson -- Trust Fall

Instructions: Have children form as many lines as there are teachers. Children should stand side by side and the lines should be at least 6 ft. apart. Have a teacher instruct his/her line of kids that he/she will walk behind them. When he/she says a child's name, that child is to remain stiff, arms at sides, look straight ahead and fall straight backwards. The teacher will catch each one. After each child has had a turn, get the group back together.

Let's get into small groups to talk about this experience and to pray.

Debrief

- What did you just do? Why did you choose or not choose to fall?
- Did you choose to believe that he/she would?
- What's the key verse? "The LORD said to him, 'Surely I will be with you, and it will seem as if you are fighting only one man'" (Judges 6:16).
- Have you ever been afraid of the dark? It is hard to go to sleep when you are afraid, isn't it? What do you do when you're afraid?
- What are some other things you are afraid of? Has anyone here made a new friend even though you were afraid? What happened? (Teacher should be prepared to give a personal example, honesty about the fear and how God gave confidence to obey.)
- Help the children think of ways to remember to pray for and give to the giving campaign. (Do extra chores, give some of allowance, Christmas money, ask parents for suggestions.)

Let's ask God to help us trust and follow Him, especially when we are afraid.

Game -- Simon Says (Superhero Theme)

Instructions: Choose one child as "Simon". The other children gather around "Simon" (while still spaced out), who gives instructions by saying, "Simon says..." telling the kids to perform an action, using **superhero** action verbs. For example: karate chop, fly, superman pose, etc. Each child must perform the action. If Simon leaves out "Simon says" before giving instruction, anyone who performed the activity is out!