



GIDEON

Young Preschool • #OT15 • September 17, 2023

Concept

God is always with His children.

Goal

The children will learn that God is always with His children and just as He strengthened Gideon to do His will, He will give us the courage to trust Him even when we're afraid.

Passage

Judges 7:2-22

Key Verse: "God said to Gideon, 'Surely I will be with you...'" Judges 6:16

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station/ Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Beginner's Bible, Karyn Henley</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brown construction paper rolled into cone for torch, 1/CT class</i> • <i>Red & orange construction paper or tissue paper for torch, 1 each/CT class</i> • <i>Transparent tape</i> • <i>Laminated "G" emblem</i> • <i>Paper lunch bag, 1/CT class</i> • <i>Plastic "shofar"/horn</i> 	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gideon & army picture w/key verse, 1/child • Shofar stickers, 4/child • Crayons and 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 turbulent period in Israel’s history from about 1380 to 1050 B.C., from the conquest of Palestine to the beginnings of the monarchy. Though the land had been generally conquered and occupied under Joshua, many important Canaanite strongholds had been bypassed, leaving their subjugation to individual Israelite tribes. The Book of Judges describes this warfare as the Hebrews tried to complete their occupation of the land.

“The judges were military and civil leaders ruling during this time when the nation was a loose confederacy. Some of the judges ruled concurrently since each one did not necessarily rule over the entire land.”[1]

“The Book of Judges stands in stark contrast to Joshua. In Joshua an obedient people conquered the land through trust in the power of God. In Judges, however, a disobedient and idolatrous people are defeated time and time again because of their rebellion against God.

“In seven distinct cycles of sin to salvation, Judges shows how Israel had set aside God’s law and in its place substituted “what was right in their own eyes” (21:25). The recurring result of abandonment from God’s law is corruption from within and oppression from without. During the nearly four centuries spanned by this book, God raises up military champions to throw off the yoke of bondage and to restore the nation to pure worship. But all too soon the ‘sin cycle’ begins again as the nation’s spiritual temperature grows steadily colder.[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 would burn against Israel and He would deliver 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.

[1] Ryrie Study Bible, Charles C. Ryrie, p. 364.

[2] Children’s Ministry Resource Bible, p. 291.

Set Up

- The week before class: Lesson – Practice parts for the mini-skit. Roll brown construction paper into a cone and tape in place to make a torch. Tape red and orange paper in the cone as flames.
- The day of class: Learning Activity #1 – Cut shofar stickers apart.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

Read Aloud – “Trumpets and Torches”

- **Instructions:** Read about Gideon on pages 142-147 of The Beginner's Bible.

Introduction Lg. Group

A long, long, long time ago God sent leaders to tell His people what He wanted them to know. A man named Gideon was one of the leaders that God sent.

Transition

Let's come sit in a circle and listen while we learn about Gideon.

Lesson Lg Group

Drama – "Gideon Trusts God" mini-skit presented by teachers

Instructions: Two teachers are God and Gideon. "God" should speak from behind a barrier of some kind. Gideon will tape the "G" emblem to his/her shirt. A teacher should sit in the circle with the children and be the narrator.

Narrator: God's people were being attacked by their enemies. The people wanted Gideon to be brave and to save them. But Gideon wasn't brave or strong. Actually he was afraid to be their leader. God told Gideon that He had sent Gideon to save His people from their enemies. "God said to Gideon, 'Surely I will be with you...'" God promised that He would make Gideon strong and brave because God is always with His children. Now I would like to introduce your fearful leader, Gideon!

Gideon enters flexing his muscles

God: *Talking in a loud voice*

Gideon, I want you to lead my people to fight the bad guys.

Gideon: *Acts suddenly very afraid, shakes all over, and talks in a shaky voice*
Who me? But God I'm too scared!

God: I am always with my children. Surely I will be with you...

Gideon: Okay, God. Even though I'm afraid, I believe you will be with me. I will obey you.

Narrator: Gideon went to find some men to be in God's army.

Gideon invites children to join his army.

Narrator: After Gideon gathered the soldiers he handed them each some things and told them God's plan. What do you think Gideon gave them to go fight the enemies? Knives or swords? No. Gideon gave them each a torch that was maybe something like this.

Gideon hold up paper torch

Then he gave them each a pitcher to put over the torch to hide the light from the torch. Pretend this paper bag is a pitcher.

Gideon put the paper lunch bag over the torch

Then he gave them each a horn called a shofar.

Gideon hold up and blow the shofar

Gideon: Okay, soldiers hold up your imaginary torches and put your torches under your imaginary pitchers. Do you think these are good weapons to fight the bad guys? Are you afraid? You know what? I am really afraid, but "God said to me, 'Surely I will be with you...'" God has promised me that He will be with us and He will make us win. God is always with His children. We will surround the camp of the bad guys. When I blow my horn, you all blow your imaginary horns and say, "For the Lord and for Gideon."

Gideon: Let's go quietly, the bad guys are sleeping like babies.

Gideon's army sneaks around the camp. Gideon smashes his pitcher down, holds his torch up and blows the shofar. The children copy him - smash their pretend pitchers, hold their pretend torches and blow their pretend horns.

For the Lord and for Gideon!

Narrator: When this happened the bad guys thought a giant army surrounded them. They woke up so confused that they attacked each other with their swords and went running far away out of the camp. Gideon and his army went home and told God's people, "God said to Gideon, 'Surely I will be with you...'" God was with us and He is so smart that He came up with an amazing plan." God helped His people to win the battle even though they were afraid.

What are you afraid of? (Afraid of the dark, monsters, scary movies. The teacher should share a fear.) Even adults like Gideon are afraid sometimes. What good choice did Gideon make even though he was afraid? (He believed that God was with him and obeyed what God told him.) Gideon believed that God is always with His children.

Lesson Continued

God wants us to believe that He will be with us, too, even when we are afraid. He loves us so much that He sent His son, Jesus, to earth to die on the cross for all our bad choices. When we tell God that we want his forgiveness and Jesus' death to count for us, His spirit comes to live in us. Then we become God's children and we can know that God will always be with us because God is always with His children.

Let's pray together now. Let's say thank you to Jesus, for dying on the cross for us. Let's ask Him to help us remember that God is always with His children, even when we are afraid.

Transition

Let's color a picture of Gideon to remind us that God was with Gideon and that God is always with His children.

Learning Activity#1

Craft – Gideon Color Page

Instructions: Give each child a copy of the picture to color and 4 shofar stickers. Color the men in Gideon's army and put the shofar stickers at the men's mouths for them to blow. As the children color, ask them to tell you what they remember about Gideon. Talk about times when God has been with you when you are afraid.

Transition

If you would like to listen to me read the story about Gideon again, come over here.

Learning Activity# 2

Story – “Trumpets & Torches,” pages 142-147 of The Beginner's Bible.