



GIDEON

Preschool-K • #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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bed sheet</i> • 3 adult chairs <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown construction paper rolled into cone for torch, 1/CT class • Red/orange construction paper or tissue paper for fire, 1 each/ CT class • Transparent tape • Laminated "G" emblem • Paper lunch bag, 1/CT class • Plastic "shofar"/horn <p>Learning Activity #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adam Raccoon and the Mighty Giant</i>, Glen Keane 	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bright colors of construction paper, 1/child • Key verse stickers printed on Avery 5366 labels, 1/child • Geometric (gem shape) stickers, several/child • <i>Hole punches</i> • Yarn, 24"/child • Markers, crayons <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color page of Gideon and his army, 1/child • Shofar stickers, 3/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

Incorporation Lg. Group

- 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 #2 – Cut shofar stickers apart.

Activity Stations:

- **Craft – Shofar**
 - **Instructions:** Give each child a sheet of construction paper. Color and decorate it with stickers. Roll the paper in a conical shape and stick a key verse sticker to hold it closed. Use the hole punch to make holes at one end to tie on yarn streamers. Talk with the children about the horn they are making. We will learn about a man, Gideon, who was a leader for God. He was very afraid but chose to trust God and God was with him. They will use their shofars in the lesson and can take them home to remember that, if they ask, God will be with them all the time even when they are afraid just as He was with Gideon.
- **Dramatic Play – Tent Life**
 - **Instructions:** With the children make a tent out of the sheet and chairs. Talk with the children about what it would be like to live in a tent. Think about how they would eat, cook, and sleep, where they would store their toys, plug in their lights, etc. People in different countries actually live in tents today.

Introduction Lg. Group

Many, many, many, many years before Jesus came to earth God sent leaders called judges to His people to tell them what God wanted them to know. Gideon was one of the judges God sent. God's people were being attacked by their enemies and they thought Gideon would be their super-hero. They thought he was brave and strong like the super-heroes we see on television. 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 would make Gideon strong and brave because God is always with His children.

Transition

Let's sit in a circle and listen for the rest of the story.

Lesson Lg Group

Drama – "Gideon Trusts God" mini-skit presented by 2 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. Another teacher should sit in the circle with the children and be the narrator.

Narrator: Now I would like to introduce your fearful leader, Gideon!

Gideon enters flexing his muscles like a super-hero

God: *Talks 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: The Bible tells us that God is always with His children. "God said to Gideon, 'Surely I will be with you...'"

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

Narrator: Gideon gathered an army.

Gideon: Yells – Who wants to join God's army? Raise your hand if you want to join.

Call on the children to stand beside him

Narrator: Many, many men wanted to join God's army. So they went with Gideon.

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? Guns? No, they didn't have guns way back then. Knives or swords? No. Gideon gave them each a torch that was maybe something like this.

Gideon hold up torch and pretend to give torches to each child

Then he gave them each a pitcher to put over the torch to hide the light from the torch.

Gideon hold up pitcher (paper lunch bag) then pretend to give pitchers to each child

Then he gave them each a horn called a shofar.

Gideon hold up and blow the plastic shofar and give each child the one he/she made

Gideon: Okay, soldiers hold up your imaginary torches and hide them in your imaginary pitchers. Do you think these are good weapons to fight the enemies? Are you afraid? You know what? I am really afraid too, 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 enemy camp. When I blow my horn, you all blow your imaginary horns and say, "For the Lord and for Gideon."

Narrator: While Gideon and his army were getting ready, the enemies went to sleep because they were very tired.

Lesson Continued

Gideon: Let's go, the enemies are sleeping like babies.

Gideon's army sneaks around the camp

Gideon: A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!

*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.*

Narrator: When this happened the enemies thought a giant army surrounded them. They woke up so confused that they stabbed each other with their swords and went running far away out of the camp.

Narrator: 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.

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

Let's get in our small groups to talk about this.

- What are you afraid of? (Some responses might be: afraid of the dark, monsters, scary movies. The teacher should be prepared to 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.
- How did God use Gideon? (He saved His people from their enemies.)
- How do you think God can use you?

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 we're sorry for making bad choices and want Jesus in our hearts, 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.

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

Transition

**Learning
Activity# 2
Lg. Group**

Transition

**Learning
Activity# 3**

Craft – Gideon and His Army

Instructions: Give each child a copy of the picture to color. Give them 3 shofar stickers to color and put on the picture. 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.

If you would like to act out Gideon's life again, you can do that. Or you can read a story.

Drama – Reenact simplified "Gideon Trusts God"

Story – Adam Raccoon and the Mighty Giant