



MAY 4, 2025

# GIDEON LED ISRAEL

JUDGES 6-8

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Gideon could have never won the battle without God's power. Victory came from God alone. We cannot save ourselves from sin. Only Jesus can save us from our sin.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

## MEMORY VERSE

2 Chronicles 7:14 | Philippians 4:19

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The story of Gideon in Judges 6–8 reveals the power of God at work in the lives of His people and how victory belongs to Him alone. God's call on Gideon's life demonstrates how the Lord often chooses what is weak to shame the strong (1 Corinthians 1:27).

Why would God choose to drastically limit the number of Gideon's soldiers in battle? How does God's provision in this story point to an even greater salvation—our hope in Christ?

Once again, the Israelites had committed themselves to doing evil in the sight of the Lord. The Lord allowed the Midianites to rule over His people as a consequence for their sin. Yet, God again acted mercifully as He responded to their cries for deliverance in the face of oppression. God graciously sent a prophet to His people to remind them of the faithful love He had shown them since their days in Egypt. He urged them to remember His covenant with His people.

God called Gideon to be a judge for the Israelites and to deliver them from Midian. Not wanting His people to claim victory on behalf of their own strength, God told Gideon to pare down his troops. God showed His power by limiting the Israelites' manpower in battle. This way, they could only attribute their victory to the Lord's goodness on their behalf. Gideon and his army of 300 had no logical way of winning a battle against so many Midianite troops. Yet, God proved He is Lord over creation and the One who pursues His people and delivers them unto Himself.

God provided salvation to His people by delivering them from the hand of the Midianites, but even more, He has provided eternal deliverance to all who trust in His Son for salvation. In the battle against sin and death, we—like the Israelites—have no means of securing victory on our own. Yet through Jesus, the battle is already won. Lead boys and girls to see God's ability to make a way where there is no way, as well as His heart for sinners who deserve death. May the children walk forward in faith, trusting in the Lord for His victory over sin and death.

# WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

## MEMORY VERSES

...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**2 Chronicles 7:14, ESV**

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:19, ESV**

## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This month we have TWO verses that we can memorize together — 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Philippians 4:19.

On the TVs in your room, select and play the motion video to teach kids the hand motions to aid in memorizing this unit's memory verse. As a group, repeat the motions on the video 2-3 times to get the hang of it.

*Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on May 25!*

# LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

## GIDEON LED ISRAEL

The Israelites continued to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord. So, the Lord handed them over to the Midianites, who destroyed the Israelites' crops and took their livestock. God's people cried out to the Lord.

The angel of the Lord appeared to a man named Gideon. The angel said, "The Lord is with you, brave warrior. I am sending you to rescue My people from Midian."

"But how can I do that?", asked Gideon. "I am from the weakest family in Israel, and I am the youngest man in my family."

God said, "I will be with you, and you will have victory." God also told him to tear down places of worship to two false gods: Baal and Asherah.

The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew the ram's horn and God's people came to meet him and fight the Midianites. Gideon said to God, "I will put a wool fleece on the ground. If in the morning, there is dew on the fleece, but the ground is dry, then I will know that you will give Israel victory." When he woke, the fleece was wet, and the ground was dry.

Again, Gideon said to God, "Don't be angry with me, but let me make one more test. This time, let the fleece be dry and the ground be wet." That night, God did as Gideon requested. The fleece was dry, and the ground was wet with dew. So, the army went to fight the Midianites.

Before Israel began to fight, the Lord said to Gideon. "You have too many troops. If you fight with this many people, Israel will think they defeated the Midianites on their own. They need to know that I am the One who gives them victory." So, Gideon told anyone who was fearful of the battle to go home. Twenty-two thousand troops left, and ten thousand remained.

The Lord said, "There are still too many troops. Take them down to the water, and everyone who laps water like a dog will stay to fight the battle." After this test, only three hundred troops remained.

Then the Israelites surrounded the Midianite camp. They blew their trumpets and made a great noise, shouting, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" The Midianites were confused and scared; they turned on each other with their swords. God's people won the battle.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Gideon could have never won the battle without God's power. **Victory came from God alone.** We cannot save ourselves from sin. Only Jesus can save us from our sin.

# ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

## MAIN ACTIVITY

Divide your room into two sides using a line of painter's tape down the middle. Split your group into two teams and send one team to one side of the room and the other team to the other side.

Give each kid a piece of paper and have them crumple it into a ball before throwing it to the other team's side. Each team should immediately pick up the other team's paper balls and throw them back as fast as possible.

Continue to have kids race to throw paper balls back and forth for 20-30 seconds, then stop. The team with the most paper balls on their side loses that round. Play as many rounds as time allows!

## CONNECT THE DOTS



If your team had too many paper balls on your side, you lost that round. Today, we learned about Gideon, who was chosen by God to be Israel's judge and fight their enemy. Gideon had too many warriors and needed to remove men from the army so they would see that their victory came from God alone.

## K12 BIBLE SKILLS ACTIVITY

### Books of the Bible

Give every kid at least two Books of the Bible papers from the pieces provided in your bin.

Using the Books of the Bible poster in your room, work together as a group to put all the books in order. Talk about how the different colors represent different types of books (e.g., law, prophecy, history, etc.).

**Optional:** *If this proves too easy for your kids, challenge them to do it without looking at the poster!*

## 345 BIBLE SKILLS ACTIVITY

### New Testament Scavenger Hunt

Split kids into four groups and give each group 2-3 Bibles.

On the TV in your room, go through each of the scavenger hunt tasks and see which group can complete it the fastest.

If kids are struggling, encourage them not to give up and remind them it takes time to learn how to find things in the Bible!

# CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

## BIBLE STORY REVIEW

**Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.**

1. Gideon didn't feel like he could do the job God called him to. Why can we trust in God when He calls us to obey Him?
2. Why do you think God chose a weak warrior like Gideon?
3. God used a small army to defeat Israel's enemy. Why do you think God did this?
4. Why does God sometimes put us in situations that seem impossible?
5. What are some things other than God we sometimes turn to for help or strength?

## HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Go to the Leader Folder on one of the TVs in your room. (*Hit the back button until you see it.*) There, you'll find games and activities to do with your group!



## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**