



3rd -5th

August 17-18, 2013

DATE

Gideon

LESSON TITLE

Judges 6 (Pg.273); 2 Cor. 12:9 (Pg.1268)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Deserves the Glory

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

As kids enter, welcome them by name. Either introduce them to other kids or ask them about their day, how they feel about going back to school, etc. With school beginning, some of them may be struggling with a range of emotions.

check-in/out

As parents begin to arrive, flip over the papers you were using during small group and begin the "extra time" activity. It'll be a cool way to worship together as kids leave.

large group heads up

There's no video today, but a lot of audience interaction. Help the presenter by modeling what group participation looks like and aiding in the logistics of bringing up volunteers. It's all in an effort to tell the story in Judges 7—the time God showed his glory by handing over an army of 135,000 to an army of 300!



instructions

Goal: to help kids understand how today's story applies to our lives

Why? God deserves the glory not only in Gideon's story but also in ours!

Tip: Before small group begins, ask God to help you communicate ways the kids specific to your group can bring him glory/praise. We have some general examples, but each kid will come with unique gifts.

small group

CONNECT

1. Share your name and one word to describe the best part of your week (if you've already connected before large group, move directly to question #2).
2. Share a time when you wanted to take the glory for yourself. (Help give kids ideas, like they were playing on a sports team and wanted to get credit instead of giving it to the team, etc.)

REVIEW / DIG DEEPER

3. What was the problem that God's family faced in today's story? (the Midianites)
4. How did God want to solve it? (He wanted Gideon to lead a small army, but he wanted the Israelites to know God was the one who delivered.)
5. How did God deserve the glory in today's story?
6. Why did God want the glory? (He wants his family to know he's taking care of them.)
7. Is anything about today's story confusing? (Clear up questions about the story before digging deeper.)

APPLY

***Split kids into partners if you have a big group or if some kids are shy.**

- Give each kid a **marker** and spread out the **sheet of paper**.
- Ask each kid to draw one word or picture to show ways we get glory in today's culture (encourage them to think about ideas we discussed in question #2).
- As a group, look at each word/picture. Ask:
 - How does God deserve the glory/praise for those things? (Talk about how he created us with certain skills, gave us certain opportunities, etc.)
- STOP in enough time to wrap up with these questions:
 - How did Gideon give God glory? (by obeying)
 - How can we give God glory? (By obeying and using our gifts for his glory—e.g.)

If we play an instrument, we can use it to worship him; if we play a sport, we can show others on our team what it looks like to follow God; if we are good at taking care of our younger siblings, we can show them what God's love looks like, etc., all of which are forms of obedience!

- Have you ever been afraid to obey (like Gideon)?
- Reflect on today's verse: **2 Corinthians 12:9 My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.**
- ASK: What's one way you want to bring God glory this week, even if it's hard?

***Pray together, asking God to help each of you obey him and bring him glory this week. Refer to specific ways kids want to bring God glory.**

Extra time? As parents arrive, flip the brainstorm paper over. Spend time praising together. Have kids draw a word or picture that reminds them of a time God deserved glory. (It can be from today's story, another Bible story, or a time they personally experienced God helping them be obedient.)



special notes

The Minute to Win-It competition is designed to engage kids—and also to show them an example of what it means when we ask “Who deserves the glory in this situation?” Make sure to use it for both goals!

presenter tips

Today has a lot of audience interaction. Feel free to adapt the bolded, volunteer numbers in the “God Prunes His Army” section to get as many kids involved as possible. ***Do not adapt intro numbers, because we have ONLY 2 Kleenex boxes per service.**

script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids’ Club. I’m so happy to see you here today. Today, I’m going to need some help from the audience. To start with, I need four of you. Two of you will compete against the clock in a “Minute to Win-It” game; two of you will help. (Call on four kids; split them into two teams of two.)

INTRO: MINUTE TO WIN-IT CHALLENGE

(Turn to helpers.) Alright, you guys are the official Minute to Win-It assistants. Could you go grab a **box of Kleenex** from over there? (Point to where you stashed the Kleenex.) Great! Now set the Kleenex next to your teammate (use floor or a table). Now step back—no touching the Kleenex box.

(Turn to the competitors.) Here’s your challenge. Put one hand behind your back (let kids hide one hand.) I’m going to start the clock. You have exactly one minute to pull out all the Kleenexes in this box. But, you can only use one hand. And (turn to helpers) you guys can’t help anymore. The one who pulls out the most Kleenexes in a minute, wins. Got it? (Make sure kids understand.)

Ready? Set? Go! (**Start the 60-second countdown clip**; check to see who wins, but if both beat the clock, they are both winners. Send the “losing” team back to their seats.) Wow! Great job! Was that hard? (Let kids react.)

(Turn to audience.) Now, we’ve got teams of two. Who do you think gets the glory for actually winning the competition? Basically, who should we honor and praise for winning? (Let kids point to the challengers.) Wait, but these guys helped... (Let kids respond that they only set down the Kleenex box but did not add value to the actual game.)



script continued

I guess I agree. (To helper/s): You guys did exactly as I asked, so thanks! You did your job perfectly. But the glory of winning goes to this/these guy/s (point to competitor/s). (Let helper sit, but keep the winner with you.) What does it mean when we say that this member of the team gets the glory for winning? (Let kids say: they did the work.) Yep, they were the ones who actually did what it took to win the competition.

Great job! You can go ahead and have a seat. Today, we're going to hear about a challenge that God's family got into. At the end of the story, see if you can figure out who deserves the glory. You guys ready for today's story? (Let kids respond.)

GOD'S FAMILY IS IN TROUBLE

We talked about how God's family had to wander in the desert for many years, waiting to get to the wonderful land God had promised them. But God was faithful. He provided what they needed in the desert—manna, water from a rock, even rules! Then, God tore down the thick walls of Jericho so the people could get in.

(Show image of the Promised Land.) And for awhile, God's family enjoyed the Promised Land, which was lush and rich, full of all the food and drink they needed.

But it wasn't too long before God's family got into some more trouble. A huge army, called the Midianites, was coming to fight them. The Midianites were so cruel that God's family had to hide from them in caves. They went from the most amazing home imaginable (point to the image)...to a deep dark, uncomfortable hiding place (**play loop of cave**). They didn't even try to fight back!

GOD CHOOSES GIDEON

God saw how miserable his family was—and that they weren't free to enjoy the land he had given them. So he had a plan for them to defeat the Midianites. And he chose a guy named Gideon to lead his family in battle.

Now, Gideon wasn't expecting to be chosen as a warrior. He wasn't very strong or popular. He definitely wasn't a fighter and there was no reason for him to believe that anybody would listen to him. But Gideon decided to follow God, so he obeyed him and gathered an army.

GOD PRUNES THE ARMY

(Show picture of the Spring of Harod.) So Gideon led the Israelite army to camp at a spring. They were going to finally stop hiding and defeat the Midianites. There were 32,000 of them. That sounds like a lot, right? But there were 135,000 Midianites! So already they weren't big enough to win the battle without God's help.

Now, I need **15** of you to come up here (if you have a small class, take everyone up and adapt the number of volunteers in bold). You guys are the army of 32,000 people. You're going to get in a big fight with the Midianites, who have an army more than 4 times as big as you!



script continued

(Turn the audience.) God said to Gideon, “I want to hand the Midianites over to you. But I don’t want Israel to be able to brag and say they did it. So I want you to tell everybody who is scared to go home.” Basically, God was making the army even smaller so that once they won it would be even more of a miracle!

(Turn to the “army.”) Guess what? 22,000 men were scared! So they went home. (Send **10** kids back to their seats). Now the army was down to 10,000. Ten thousand men fighting 135,000!!

(Turn back to the audience.) Even with 10,000 men, God said to Gideon, “That’s still too many. I need to make your army even smaller.”

Then God told Gideon how to divide his army. He told Gideon to tell his men to take a drink from the water at the springs. There are two ways you could drink from the spring. One is to get on your knees, cup water into your hands, and drink. Another way is to lap the water straight out of the springs like a dog.

(Turn to the army.) I need all of you to get down on your knees and pretend to drink water out of your hands. (Let them react.) Except you! (point out **one** person who seems confident.) You pretend to lap water up like a dog. (Let the kid react.)

Great job! God said to Gideon, “Keep the men who lapped up water like a dog.” So all of you can sit down except you (point to kid who lapped water; let other kids sit). Gideon sent everybody home except the men who lapped water, which wasn’t many. In fact, it was only 300.

Now 300 men were going to fight 135,000! That’s kind of like if you had to fight off 106 huge, cruel warriors...all by yourself. Would that even be possible? (Let kids say: no, unless God helped.) No, definitely not. Not by yourself.

GOD WINS THE BATTLE

But is it possible to win that kind of a battle with God’s help? (Let kids say: Yes!) Yes, it sure is! Anything is possible with God’s help. Go ahead and sit down; let’s hear what happened (let kid sit).

Gideon kept obeying God and he used the battle strategy God asked him to use. He gave each of the men a trumpet and a torch hidden by a jar. They surrounded the Midianites. Once it was dark, they blew their trumpets, broke their jars so that their torches burned brightly and yelled.

You’ll never guess what happened next. The Midianites actually started running away! Then God caused them to start attacking each other. So this huge army of 135,000 was fighting each other and running away. The Israelites were safe!

GOD DESERVES THE GLORY

After this battle, who do you think got the glory? (Let kids say: God!) Yep, it was God. It certainly wasn’t the Israelite army—they were tiny! And it wasn’t Gideon—he wasn’t even very



script continued

strong. But God had used Gideon, who was weak to rescue his entire special family.

God loves to get the glory when we obey him. In fact, in 2 Cor., Paul tells us something God told him. God told Paul:

SLIDE: 2 Corinthians 12:9 My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.

That means that even when God asks us to do something that seems impossible, we can obey him. Because we know that God will help us and then we can give him the glory. Pretty cool, huh?

WORSHIP

Let's stand up and thank God for being strong enough to do the impossible. Let's give him glory now by telling him how great he is! He asks us to follow him, but then he helps!

Song: Come With Me

Song: You Come In a Hurry

PRAY

Ask somebody to come and thank God that he deserves the glory for everything we do.

name



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PREP needs



small group supplies

Markers

1 tear-off sheet of paper (2x3ish) per small group

large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 273, 1268)

2 boxes of Kleenex per service (any size, as long as they come in a box/any brand)

a/v needs

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Minute to Win-It Countdown video:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60RiDg71W7A2. Image: Promised Land (jpeg in curriculum folder)3. Sound clip: inside a cave loop (Use from 0:27-9:56 of http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj8XbFOYylc) | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Image: Spring of Harod (jpeg in curriculum folder)5. SLIDE: 2 Corinthians 12:9 My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.6. Song: Come With Me (musicians video)7. Song: You Come in a Hurry (video with person doing hand motions) |
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special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about Gideon.

How did God's family defeat the Midianites?

parent page

While kids in Pre-K through second grade learned just how scared Gideon was to obey God and lead the Israelites in the battle against the Midianites, third through fifth graders learned the miraculous way God used Gideon to deliver the people. Basically, Gideon didn't need to worry, because it had absolutely nothing to do with his strength—or the strength of his army. Ask your kid to tell you about it. And take a look at the whole story in Judges 6-7.