



3PK

August 17-18, 2013

DATE

Gideon

LESSON TITLE

Judges 6

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Wants to Help Us

MAIN POINT

schedule

SCHEDULE for all sites:

First 10 minutes of the service hour:
Relationship-building time (kids get to know each other and the volunteers)

Next 25 minutes: Large group teaching and worship

Last 30 minutes: Story review, snack and small groups, activities/crafts

If you finish early, have kids engage group games as parents arrive. Check out the end of the activities section to find an idea for this week.

tips

Help kids clean up their stuff. Make it fun. Tell them each to pick up 10 items, or act like you're a robot while picking up, or come up with your own creative idea to engage them in clean-up.

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents why they colored a picture of a cave.

large group heads up

Today, we are learning the story of Gideon. Gideon was afraid to lead God's family to safety because he didn't think God will help him. God showed him that he would! The great news is God loves to help us, too.



instructions

Goal: to help kids review the story by acting it out

Why? This story can be hard to understand, but acting it out this way will reinforce how serious God was about helping Gideon

Tip: If kids want to take their cotton balls home, let them glue them onto their cave coloring page (you should have a couple of extra glue sticks in your bin).

small group

***Start today with a review activity:**

REVIEW ACTIVITY

Review the context:

1. Where was God's family hiding? (in caves)
2. Why did they have to hide? (a huge army was chasing them)
3. Who did God ask to rescue his family? (Gideon!)
4. How did Gideon feel when God asked him to save his family? (make a scared face to show kids Gideon was scared)

Act it out:

*Hand each kid a **cotton ball**. Ask them to flatten it (they can unroll it or just pull it a little).

Then act out the story:

- Gideon asked God to make some wool wet and the ground dry. Then he went to sleep. (Kids should pretend to sleep.) As kids "sleep," use a **paper cup** in the room to drop a little water on their cotton ball. Then say, "Wake up!"
- Wow, do you guys have wet wool? (Give them a moment to look.)
- Say, "That means God will help!" Ask kids to repeat: "God will help!"
- But....uh oh, Gideon still felt scared! (Kids should make a scared face.)

*Hand each kid a second cotton ball. Ask them to flatten it. Then act out the rest of the story:

- So Gideon asked God to make some wool dry and the ground wet. Then he went to sleep. (Kids should pretend to sleep.) As kids "sleep," use a paper cup in the room to drop a little water *next* to their cotton ball. Then say, "Wake up!"
- Wow, do you guys have dry wool? (Give them a moment to look.)
- Say, "That means God will help!" Ask kids to repeat: "God will help!"

***Serve kids a snack as you continue on the following page:**

5. Say, God will help _____ (use kids' names).
6. How will God help us? (Suggest things like to share, eat all our food, clean up our toys, be kind to our brothers or sisters, etc.)

***Pray with the kids, thanking God for helping Gideon—and us!**

...Extra time? Try to keep kids seated at the snack table by entertaining them with this game:

- **Rock Band:** Give each kid a **paper cup** (or let them use the empty one their goldfish were in). Make up beats by: (1) tapping the cup on your head, tummy, foot, or knee, (2) tapping the cup on the table fast, (3) tapping the cup on the table sloooow, (4) adding sound effects like low or high voices, whispers--or any silly noise the kids think is fun, or (5) making up your own beats! To mix things up, turn on a CD and keep the beat of the music!

special notes

Use tone today to show specifically how Gideon asked God to show that he would help.

presenter tips

Make sure you use lots of eye contact and muster as much energy as possible as you present. Kids love it when you act silly and over-the-top, so go for it. They'll love it and it will help the lesson to stick.

script

Presenter: Hi Friends! Welcome to Kid's Club. I'm _____ and I'm really glad you're here today. Before we get started, I want you to meet my friend, HOPS. She's going to remind us of the kind of choices we can make today Kids' Club.

Video: *HOPS 4 Share With Others* (about 1 minute)

REVIEW

Presenter: (holding up the **Bible** for kids to see) ... This is God's story. Out of all the stories in the world, this story is the most important. It's God's Rescue plan.

Remember how God made the whole world and everything was good? The world was perfect! Give me a smile and a "thumbs up!" (Let kids respond. Then change your tone): But THEN, something bad happened. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and sadness and death came into the world... Show me your sad face. (Let kids respond.) This was *really* sad.

But even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God... God loved them anyway! And He planned a great rescue so that Adam and Eve—and you and me—can be close to God again. **And he decided to send the rescuer through a family!**

GOD'S FAMILY IS IN TROUBLE

But one day, God's family was in trouble! A huge army was coming to fight them. They had to leave their houses and runaway to hide in caves, like this: (**show kids a picture of the cave**). See, they would crawl into the dark opening to hide.



script continued

Now, close your eyes for a second. (Let kids close eyes.) Imagine what it would feel like to live inside that cave. It would be dark. You'd have to sleep on the rocky ground. You'd have to listen to the sounds in the cave. It might have sounded something like this: (**play looping video with hollow dripping noise**). Sometimes, water drips in caves...

And I bet there were bugs! Everybody, use your hand to tickle your other arm (model). Pretend there is a creepy, crawly spider inching up your arm! (Model and let the kids pretend.) ...Ewww—yuck!

Whew! Go ahead and open your eyes. I would NOT want to live in a cave, would you!? (Let kids say: No!) Well, neither did God's family. (**Go to the next slide so the cave sounds don't distract kids.**)

And God didn't want this big huge army to chase his family and attack them, so he chose a guy named Gideon to help his family. Can you guys say, "Gideon?" (Let kids say Gideon.)

GIDEON IS AFRAID

Now, when God asks us to do something, we should say, "Yes." Can you guys say that with me? (Let kids say: Yes!) That's right, we should always say yes to God.

(Lower your tone:) But when God asked Gideon to rescue his family, Gideon said...*no*. Uh-oh! He didn't think that God would help him and he was scared of the army chasing God's family into caves!

GIDEON TESTS GOD ONCE

Gideon tried to figure out if God would *really* help him. So he took a piece of wool. It might have looked something like this (**hold up the piece of wool**).

He put the piece of wool on the ground, outside the caves. He said something like, "God, if you're really going to help me, when I wake up in the morning, make this wool wet with water, and make the ground dry."

Then Gideon went to sleep (pretend to sleep—feel free to snore and even lay on the ground!). When he woke up, the wool was wet...and the ground was dry! That meant God would really help him!

GIDEON TESTS GOD AGAIN

But you know what? Gideon was still afraid that God wouldn't *really* help him. He said something like, "God, if you're really going to help me, when I wake up in the morning, make this wool dry, and make the ground wet with water." (Change your tone so kids can hear what is different about the second test.)

Then Gideon went to sleep (pretend to sleep again). When he woke up, the wool was *dry*...and the ground was wet! Again, that meant God would really help him!



script continued

GOD LOVES TO HELP US

This time, Gideon believed God! And do you guys think God helped Gideon rescue his family? (Let kids say: YES!) Yes, he sure did!

And it's a good thing too...because God loves to help his family! That means God loved to help Gideon. And that means God loves to help YOU. Everybody point to yourself and say, "God loves to help me!" (Let kids say: God loves to help me!)

Great job! Now let's pray together and thank God that he loves to help us. (Pray, breaking it into smaller, repeatable phrases.)

Pray: Hi God! Thanks for helping Gideon. Thanks for helping me. I love you! Aaaaaa-MEN.

WORSHIP

Now let's stand up! (Let kids stand.) Let's dance and sing to thank Jesus for helping us.

Song: Be Strong

Song: Jesus Loves Me

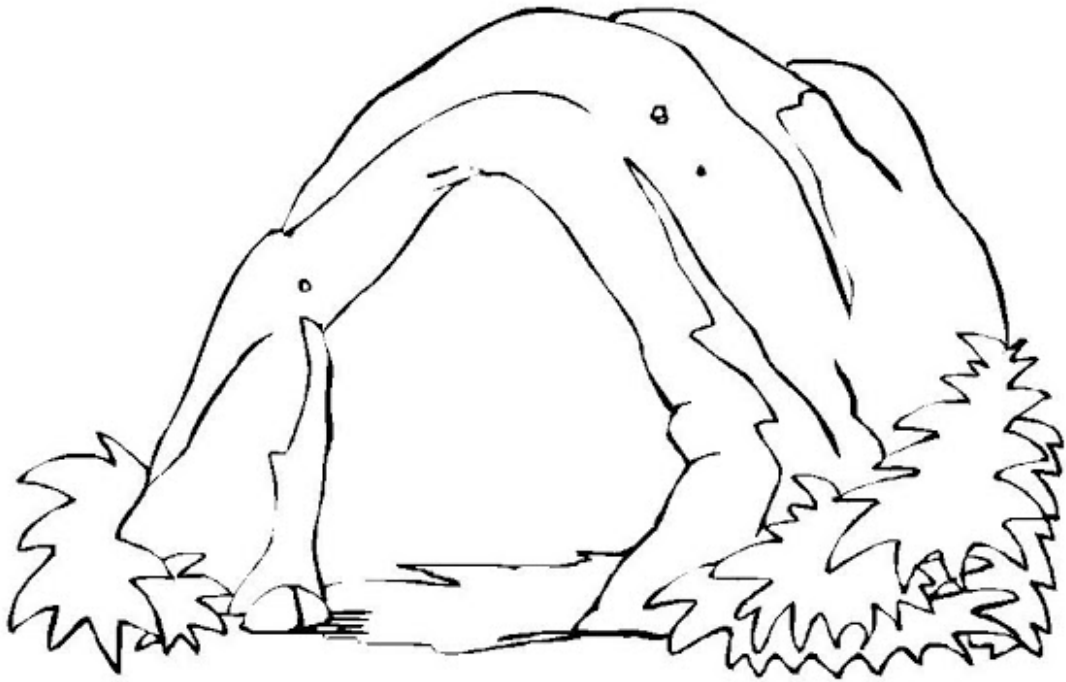
Dismiss kids to small groups. (Be creative as you dismiss them. Ask them to come give you a high five first, or maybe tiptoe or hop to their groups.)



script continued

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name



PREP needs



small group supplies

- Coloring pages: Cave
- 2 cotton balls per kid
- 2 glue sticks per room
- Paper cup (for leader to fill with water, can be same as snacks are in)

large group supplies

Bible

One piece of sheep's wool, large enough for kids to see (approx. 2'x2', can use something like this: <http://www.amazon.com/Faux-Long-Piled-Mongolian-Sheep/dp/B006QNX9TY> or

something from this site:

<https://www.fabricdepot.com/index.php?page=CatalogPage&pageid=44>)

a/v needs

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|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Video: HOPS 4 Share With Others2. Image: cave (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)4. Spacer slide needed here5. Song: Be Strong6. Song: Jesus Loves Me (use version with person doing hand motions) | |
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special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about Gideon.
Why did God help Gideon?

parent page

Today, we learned the story of Gideon, who was given a big job by God. See, God wanted to use Gideon to save his family when they were in trouble. Gideon was afraid because he wasn't sure God would help him. God showed Gideon very clearly that he would! Ask your kid to tell you about it. If you want, read the whole story in Judges 6.