



Kindergarten-2nd

August 17-18, 2013

DATE

Gideon

LESSON TITLE

Judges 6 (Pg.288); John 14:23 (Pg.1258)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Wants Us to Obey

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

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 parents pick up their kids, tell them to ask their kids about the tablecloth and cotton balls we're using in small groups.

large group heads up

Today's story is about Gideon. God asked Gideon to be the one to lead the Israelites in battle, but Gideon was afraid. God patiently showed him that he wanted his obedience. When Gideon finally chose to obey, God used him to deliver his special family! Prepare by reading Judges 6 and John 14:23.



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 God worked miracles to show Gideon he wanted his obedience.

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

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. What was your favorite part of today's story? Why?

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)
5. How did God show Gideon he wanted him to obey?

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:

- Spread out the **green tablecloth** and remind them that Gideon was sitting outside when he asked God to make some wool wet and the ground dry.
- Tell each kid to lay down their **cotton ball**.
- Give each kid a **raindrop sticker** to stick on the cotton ball.
 - ASK: What was God showing Gideon when he made the wool wet and the ground dry, like Gideon asked? (he wanted Gideon to obey)
 - ASK: So did Gideon obey? (nope, he asked something else)
- Have kids **turn over their cotton ball**. This time, Gideon wanted God to make the ground wet and the wool dry.
- Give each kid a raindrop sticker to stick on the tablecloth.

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- ASK: What was God showing Gideon when he made the wool dry and the ground wet? (he wanted Gideon to obey)
- ASK: So did Gideon obey? (Yes!)

DIG DEEPER / OUR RESPONSE

6. What happened when Gideon obeyed? (God helped him save God's whole family; they moved from caves to the promised land)
7. Do you think God wants us to obey too? Why?
8. What are some ways we can obey God? (Help kids be specific—obey parents, obey teachers, tell the truth, be kind, etc.)
9. *For older kids:* How do we know God will help us obey and say yes to the things he asks us to do?
10. *For older kids:* When do you feel like you can't or don't want to obey?
11. What's one way YOU can obey God this week?

***Pray with the kids, asking God to help us obey (refer to the specific ways kids want to obey this week).**

...Extra time? Play "Simon Says" to remember that obedience can be fun! Line the kids up in a row. Stand a few feet away, facing them. Explain that you will give them a command (it should be fun and silly like "touch your nose," "spin around," "jump on one foot," or "quack like a duck.") Before some commands, you will say, "Simon Says." ("Simon says spin around!") If Simon says it, the kids should do it. If Simon doesn't say it ("Spin around!"), the kids should stand still.

LARGE group

special notes

This story is often told from Gideon's perspective, with an emphasis on the fact that he tested God. We want to focus on how God might have seen this play out—specifically, how God wanted Gideon's obedience (hopefully, some kids may notice how patient God was too!).

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

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. I'm so happy to see you here today. Raise your hand if you've started school already (let kids respond). How many of you start school this week? (Let kids respond.) In your head, think of one thing you liked about or are excited about school. (Let kids think.) **Now turn and tell a friend one thing you like about school.** (Let kids tell their friends. Let 2-4 kids share with the whole group.)

Now in school, whose rules do you have to follow? (Let kids say: the teachers.) That's right. And who do we obey if we're following God? (Let kids say: God!) That's right, God. Obeying means when he asks us to do something, do we say "yes" or "no"? (Let kids say: yes!) That's right, we say yes! Even if we don't feel like it or we're scared. We can trust that God is in charge and he'll help us.

Today, we're going to hear a story about a guy who didn't want to say "yes" to God. His name was Gideon. Can you guys say "Gideon"? (Let kids say: Gideon.) Great job!

GOD'S FAMILY IS IN TROUBLE

Now, Gideon was a part of God's family many, many years ago. Even before Jesus came and rescued us. And back then, God's family had gotten into some BIG trouble. See, a huge army didn't like them and was coming to fight them. They had to leave their houses and run away to hide in caves.

Close your eyes for a second. (Let kids close eyes.) Imagine what it would feel like to live inside a cave... It would be pretty dark. You'd probably have to sleep on 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...



script continued

And I bet there were bugs! Everybody, use your hand to tickle your other arm. 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. Look at that (point to loop). 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 guess what? God didn't want his family to have to hide in caves, so he decided to rescue them from the big, scary army. And he wanted *Gideon* to be the one to lead God's family in the battle against the army.

GOD CHOOSES GIDEON

So one day, Gideon was working outside when an angel came up to him and whispered (whisper into your microphone): "Mighty warrior, the Lord is with you!"

This shocked Gideon, because he wasn't a mighty warrior or even a very strong fighter. He was just a normal guy! But the angel told Gideon that God wanted HIM to save God's special family.

(Lower your tone): But when God sent this angel to ask Gideon to rescue his family, Gideon said....*no*. Uh-oh! He was scared of the army chasing God's family into caves!

GIDEON TESTS GOD

Well, Gideon knew he should say "yes" to God, but he was too afraid. He said to God, "If you will *really* help me save your special family, then when I wake up, make this piece of wool (hold up the **piece of wool**; lay it on the ground) wet, and the ground around it dry (pat the ground around it)."

Then Gideon went to sleep (pause, **play the snoring sound bite**; encourage the kids to pretend to be asleep). When he woke up, the fleece was wet, but the ground was dry! That meant God really would help him!

GIDEON TESTS GOD AGAIN

But guess what? Gideon was *still* scared. So he didn't say "yes" yet....

Instead, he said, "Let me try one more time. God, if you will *really* help me save your special family, then when I wake up, make this piece of wool (hold up the piece of wool; lay it on the ground) *dry*, and the ground around it *wet* (pat the ground around it)."

Then Gideon went to sleep (pause, **play the snoring sound bite**; encourage the kids to pretend to be asleep). When he woke up, the fleece was DRY, but the ground was WET! What did that mean? (Let kids say: God would really help him or God wanted him to say yes!)

That's right, and when Gideon woke up, do you guys think he obeyed God? (Let kids say: YES.)



script continued

GIDEON SAYS YES TO GOD

Yep, he sure did! Gideon said yes, he would do his best to fight the battle against the huge, scary army who was forcing God's family to live in caves. And it's a good thing, too, because God helped Gideon win the battle!

See, when Gideon obeyed, God was with him. And that meant God's family could move out of the icky caves and live safely in the beautiful land God gave them! (**Show picture of Israelites rejoicing in the Promised Land.**) Now they could enjoy soft green grass, and lots to eat and drink. Their lives went from that horrible, dark, uncomfortable cave...to the best land around!

We can obey God too—and he'll help us like he helped Gideon. In John 14:23, Jesus said:

SLIDE: John 14:23 If anyone loves me, they will obey me. Then my Father will love them, and we will come to them and live in them.

Gideon loved God, so he obeyed God. And God loved him and was with him!

WORSHIP

Now let's stand up! (Let kids stand.) Let's dance and sing to thank God for helping us obey him and say yes to him.

Song: Come With Me

Song: Jesus Loves Me

PRAY

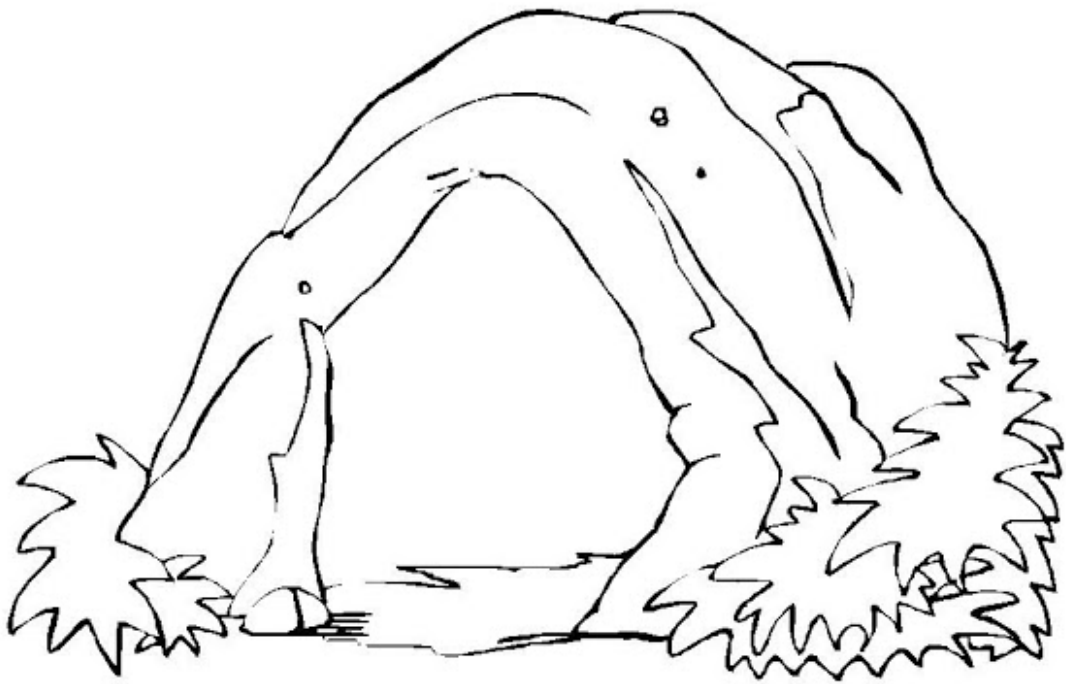
Ask someone to come ask God to help us obey him this week.



script continued

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name



PREP needs



small group supplies

- Coloring pages: Cave
- 1 cotton ball per kid
- 1 glue sticks per small group
- 2 raindrop stickers per kid (can use this or something like it: http://www.createforless.com/EK-Sticker-Stickers-Sparkler-Raindrops/pid176319.aspx?utm_source=googlebase)

<http://www.partycity.com/product/festive+green+plastic+table+cover+roll+300ft.do?navSet=109884>

1 green plastic tablecloth per small group: (can use this roll and cut pieces:

<http://www.partycity.com/product/festive+green+plastic+table+cover+roll+300ft.do?navSet=109884>)

large group supplies

- Adventure Bible for Early Readers (pp. 288, 1258)
- 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

1. Sound clip: inside a cave loop (Use from 0:27-9:56 of <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj8XbFOYylc>)
2. Sound clip of snoring: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ub2KHWkKHUI>
3. REPEAT sound clip of snoring: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ub2KHWkKHUI>

4. Image: JSB: pg. 115 (God's family rejoicing in the Promised Land)
5. SLIDE: John 14:23 If anyone loves me, they will obey me. Then my Father will love them, and we will come to them and live in them.
6. Song: Come With Me (use version with person doing hand motions)
7. Song: Jesus Loves Me (use version with person doing hand motions)

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about Gideon.
What happened when Gideon obeyed God?

parent page

Today's story is about Gideon. God asked Gideon to be the one to lead the Israelites in battle, but Gideon was afraid. God patiently showed him that he wanted his obedience. When Gideon finally chose to obey, God used him to deliver his special family! You can read the whole story in Judges 6. Also, read what God says about obedience in John 14:23.