



3PK

August 22-23, 2015

DATE

Gideon and the small army

LESSON TITLE

Judges 7

WHERE TO FIND IT

God is stronger than anything!

MAIN POINT

schedule

First 10 minutes of the service hour:
Engage kids in cooperative play activities to help them connect to other kids

Next 5 minutes: Connect Time

Next 25 minutes: Large Group

Last 25 minutes: Snack and Small Group

tips

As kids arrive, make sure to check their sticker and address them by name. Having an adult in the room who knows their name will help a kid feel more comfortable and less likely to be scared of a new environment!

check-in/out

Ask kids why they made their torches. Who else carried torches in today's Bible story?

large group heads up

Today is all about how God wins our battles, not us. Even though God could have helped Gideon win with a big army and lots of weapons, he specifically chose to take away those things to make it clear that GOD was the one who would win the battle, not Gideon, and not his army!



connect time

GOAL: *Connect time is all about engaging kids in a short, interactive game to prepare them for Large Group.*

- **Clean up! (10 minutes after the service start time, when you get the 5-minute warning from the presenter)**
- Line Up, and have kids sit down in their spot.
- Say: “God helps us do big things! I’m going to tell you some things, and if you think God can help us with them, stand up and say “Yes!”
- Have kids sit back down after each time they stand up.
- Say, “Can God help us…” before each of the following:
 - Be nice to our friends (Yes!)
 - When we’re scared (Yes!)
 - Run a race (Yes!)
 - Be nice to mean people (Yes!)
 - Clean our room (Yes!)
 - Go to school (Yes!)
 - Do scary things (Yes!)
 - When we’re sad (Yes!)
 - When we’re happy (Yes!)

**As you walk into Large Group, encourage kids to put on their listening ears!
Remind that HOPS will be showing us how we should act in Large Group, so we have to listen!**



instructions

Goal: To help kids (1) retell the story of Gideon and the small army, and (2) understand that God can help us do big things.

Why? Even preschoolers need to overcome obstacles! This story will help show them that God can help them, just like he helped Gideon.

Tip: Tell the kids about something hard you've had to do, and how God was able to help you accomplish it!

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. What man did God choose to lead his army? (Gideon)
2. Did God make the army big, or small? (Small)
3. What did God take away from the army? (Their weapons)
4. What did God tell the army to use to win the fight? (Jars, torches and trumpets)
5. Did Gideon and his army of 300 win the battle all by themselves? (No, God won the battle!)

GIDEON'S TORCH

- Give each kid **1 piece of white paper, 1 brown paper triangle/cone, 1 piece of yellow tissue paper, and 1 piece of orange tissue paper.**
- **First**, have kids glue their brown rectangle on their white paper.
- **Second**, tell kids to tear up their yellow and orange tissue papers into little pieces.
- **Third**, have kid glue their tissue paper pieces on to the big end of the brown cone. Some kids may want to glue the tissue paper all over the cone, and that's okay!
- **Tell** kids that this is what Gideon's torch might have looked like! It reminds us that God alone helped Gideon defeat the enemy.

***Pray, asking God to help us when we have to do big, scary things!**

***Extra time?** Have kids do a coloring page. After that, reenact today's story! Have kids carry their torches with them as they march around the tables. Turn music on, and whenever you pause it, kids have to freeze and yell, "God helps me!"*

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special notes

Preschoolers have events in their life that seem pretty big and scary, even if they don't seem like a big deal to us. Today we want kids to understand that they can go to God for help with their BIG problems, because he's strong enough to help us with anything!

presenter tips

Here's a link to the video we'll be watching to help kids understand the story of Gideon!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyy1R8Bpq10>

script

PTHi Friends! Welcome to Kids' 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 in Kids' Club.

Video: HOPS Obey Your Leaders (*about 1 minute*)

(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. Do you know what it's called? (Let kids respond "the Bible".) That's right, the Bible! It's God's Rescue plan.

In the beginning, God made the whole world and everything in it. And it was all GOOD. Give me a big thumbs up! (Let kids respond. Then change your tone.)

But THEN, something bad happened. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and all the wrong things came into the world. Things like sadness and death. Show me your sad face. (Let kids respond.)

Even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God, God loved them anyway! He planned a great rescue so that Adam and Eve—and you and me—could be close to God again! Do you know who the rescuer is? (Let kids say: Jesus!) That's right! Jesus!

INTRO: GOD'S FAMILY NEEDS HELP

God chose special people to be part of his family, and they were called the Israelites. Can you say, "Israelites"? (Let kids respond.) Good job! God helped the Israelites get to their new home. Once they were there, they had to fight off bad guys! You see, there were people who didn't want God's family to live in their new home. Can you give me a thumbs down, and a sad face? (Let kids respond.)



script continued

GIDEON LEADS AN ARMY

God needed someone to lead an army to fight the bad guys. He chose a special man named Gideon. Can you say, "Gideon"? (Let kids respond.) Good job! Gideon was the leader of a big army! Do you think he had 10 people in his army? How about 100 people? 1000 people? (Let kids guess after each number.) Actually, his army had 32,000 people! That's even more than in this picture! **(Click to show picture of crowd)**

Even though Gideon had a huge army, he needed God's help. God wanted everyone to know that GOD would win the battle, not just Gideon's army. Let's watch a video to see how God helps Gideon! As you watch, try to figure out exactly how they win the fight.

VIDEO: Gideon and the Army of 300

Woah! What an amazing story! God wanted people to know that HE was the only way for Gideon and his army to win the fight. Give me a big thumbs up and a smile!

Gideon started out with 32,000 soldiers. That's a BIG army! But God said, "Nope, I'm going to make your army smaller!" So he said that everyone who was scared to fight, had to leave. Do you think anybody was scared? (Let kids respond.) Yes, there were a lot of scared soldiers! Can you all pretend to be really scared? (Let kids respond, and act scared along with them.)

GOD BEATS THE ENEMY

God kept making the army smaller, and smaller, and smaller! Let's all hold our arms out in a big circle, like you're holding a big ball. (Model for kids to do it along with you.) Okay, let's pretend this is the army. Now let's make the circle smaller, to show how God told lots of soldiers to leave. (Contract your arms and make the circle smaller.) Okay, now let's make it smaller, after God told even more soldiers to leave! (Contract your arms again to make your circle smaller.) That's a really small army, isn't it? Okay, you can put your arms down.

After all that, there were only 300 soldiers left! But luckily, they had weapons. Let's all pretend to hold a sword in our hand, and swing it around like we're in a battle! (Let kids respond, but don't let kids hit each other.) I bet the army of 300 was glad to have their swords. But guess what? God said that wouldn't even need weapons! (Act confused and surprised.) Everybody pretend to throw away your sword. (Let kids respond.)

(Click to show picture- there are pics of jars, torches, trumpets) Instead, God wanted the army to fight with only jars, torches and trumpets! Nothing else. God wanted everyone to know that the only way they could win this fight was with GOD'S help, and nothing else! Did they win the fight? (Let kids respond, "Yes!") Yes, they did! God helped them win!

We all have hard things we have to do. Raise you hand if you've ever had to something hard, or scary, or big. (Let kids raise hands.) Me too. Sometimes, we have to meet new people. Or maybe we have to move somewhere. God can help us do those big, scary things! He's strong enough to do anything!

PRAY (Break it down into small, repeatable phrases)



script continued

Dear God. We love you. Thank you for helping us do big things. A-men!

WORSHIP

Since we're in God's family, we can be close to him by singing songs and worshipping! Let's all stand up and sing a song about thanking him!

Song: Come With Me

Song: Deep and Wide

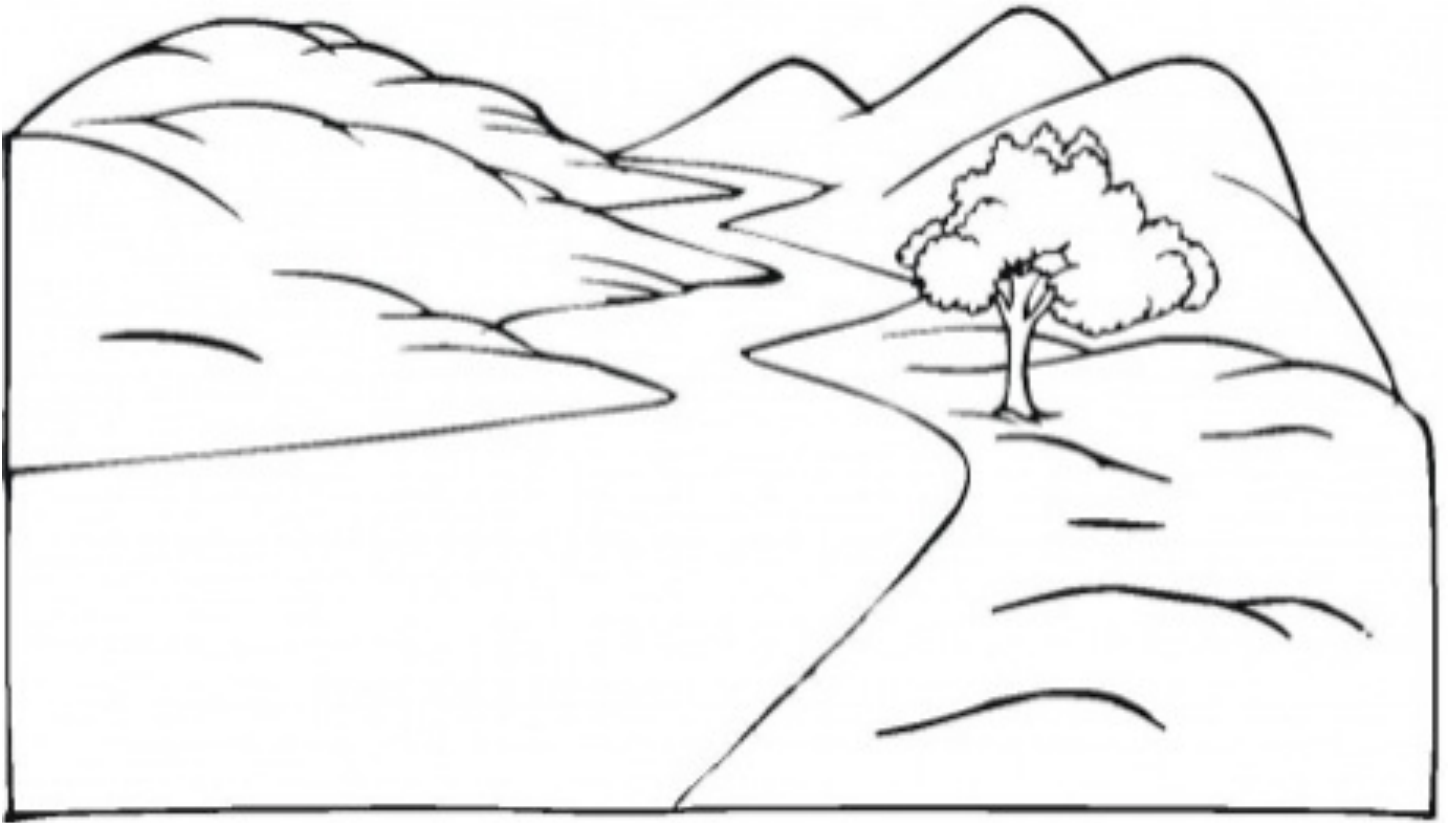
Song: Whole Wide World (extra song if you have time left over)

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

name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per kid: none

small group supplies

Per kid: 1 piece of white paper, 1 brown cone shaped triangle, 1 yellow tissue paper square (4"x4"), 1 orange tissue paper square (4"x4")

Per group: Markers, glue sticks

large group supplies

Per Group: Bible

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: HOPS Obey Your Leaders!
3. Slide: Crowd
4. Video: Gideon and the army of 300
5. Slide: Jars
6. Slide: Torches
7. Slide: Trumpets
8. Music Video: Come With Me (hand motions) (<https://vimeo.com/49923933>)
9. Song: Deep and Wide
10. Song: Whole Wide World

connect questions

Who was Gideon?
How did Gideon's army win the fight?

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