



Kindergarten-2nd

August 22-23, 2015

DATE

Gideon and the Small Army

LESSON TITLE

Judges 7; Proverbs 3:5-6

WHERE TO FIND IT

God wants to do miracles.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 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

When kids come, connect with them by asking them questions like:

- If you could be any superhero, who would you be and why?
- What's your favorite movie/video game/book?
- What's the best thing about starting school so far? What's the worst?

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents how amazing God is!

large group heads up

God wants to be glorified. Today's story is about how he made his family's army small, so that everyone knew it was God who won the battle. Kids this young might not grasp what it means to give God glory, but they can practice telling him what they love about him (which is the same thing!).



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

POSSIBLE OR IMPOSSIBLE

**This would probably be most fun to play as a whole group.*

- Line kids up as if you were going to play Simon Says
- Instead, give them a series of challenges. After each one, take a vote: If kids think they can do it, they should vote “possible.” If they think that can't, they should vote “impossible.”
- If they vote “possible,” do it!
- Here are some ideas but feel free to make up your own:
 - Do forty jumping jacks in one minute
 - Say the alphabet backwards
 - Lick your elbow
 - Rub your tummy and pat your head simultaneously
 - Wiggle your ears
 - Tie your shoes without using your thumbs
 - Stand on one leg for 60 seconds
 - Count down to zero from 10
- **Then debrief:**
 - What does it mean when something is possible? What about impossible?
 - What kind of things seem impossible? (This can be fun: things like flying, becoming part of a video game, getting younger instead of older, etc.)
 - What's the hardest thing *you've* ever done (the most impossible)?

Before you go to Large Group, you can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) retell the story of Gideon and the small army, (2) understand that God wants us to think he's amazing and (3) identify one thing they love about God.

Why? God wants to show us how great he is. The more we recognize and ask for that, the better!

Tip: Tissue paper can tend to stick together but there's only enough for one per color per kid. Make sure that's all kids take!

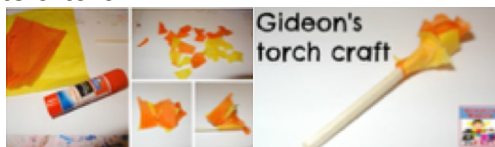
small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. Who wanted to fight God's family? (the Midianites)
2. Who was leading God's family into battle? (Gideon)
3. How did God make the army smaller? (he sent home everybody who was afraid and everybody who drank straight out of the water)
4. Why did God make the army smaller? (he wanted everybody to know he made it possible for them to win)
5. How did they win the battle? (they surrounded the Midianites, blew trumpets and showed bright torches; they didn't even use weapons because Midianites fought each other and ran away)
6. Why does God like doing impossible things? (It makes us say, "God, you're amazing!")

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give each kid a **popsicle stick** and **one piece each of the red, orange and yellow tissue paper**.
- Use **glue sticks** to glue the tissue paper around the top quarter of the popsicle stick to create a torch.



- **As kids work, ask them:** What do you think is most amazing about God? (Encourage kids to say something different than their neighbor.)

- **Give kids a chance to say the verse too.** Review it as a group using these hand motions:
 - Proverbs 3:5-6 – (hold up 3 fingers, then 5, then 6)
 - Trust in the LORD – (point up)
 - with all your heart; – (put your hand over your heart)
 - do not depend – (shake your finger “no”)
 - on your own understanding. – (point to your head)
 - Seek his will in all you do, – (fold your hands as if in prayer)
 - and he will show you which path to take. – (spread hands out, palms up)

***Pray together, telling God how amazing he is. You can even have each kid choose one word to describe God and go around saying your words!**

Give kids a coloring page. Still have extra time? Reenact the story! Have kids slowly surround you with their torches and make trumpet sounds, then run you away screaming. Or just come up with more possible/impossible challenges (and let kids choose them too).

special notes

There are three videos today but two are only about 1 minute long. Use the pacing guide to help you determine how many kids to call on during the interactive portions.

presenter tips

There are several activities that involve volunteers or all the kids. Plan ahead for how you want to involve kids and feel free to adapt the method to fit your particular group.

script

WELCOME AND INTRO (4 min.)

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. Your game earlier looked like a lot of fun. Who remembers something *impossible*? Something you couldn't do? (Let one kid share. Try it.) Wow, that IS impossible! Who remembers something possible? Something you could do? (Let a kid share. Try it.) You're right, that one is possible.

We all have to do things that are so hard, they might seem impossible. You guys were just talking about that. What are some of the hard things you've done? (Let 3-5 kids share.) Yep, those are pretty hard. One of the hardest things I've ever done is _____ (share a challenge you've faced. It can be silly).

BELIEVE IT OR NOT! (4 min.)

You know, there are lots of things that seem impossible. I've got one more for you guys to try. I need two volunteers. Raise your hand if you think you can do an impossible task! (Choose two kids.) OK, you guys can work together. See if you can build a house out of these **8 cards**. (Let kids try. When they've reached a good stopping point or kids seem restless, move on.) Well, that was a pretty good try. But it's almost impossible to get them to stay, isn't it?

We're going to watch a video of a guy who can do it, believe it or not! Let's take a look:

Video: Man Building Iowa State Capital Out of Cards (about 1 min.)

Amazing! I can't believe he could do that. Looks pretty hard to me.

GOD LOVES TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE (2 min.)

You know, we're talking about doing things that are impossible because there's somebody who LOVES to do impossible things. Can anybody guess who that is? (Let kids respond.) Yes, GOD. And God loves to do impossible things or help his family do impossible things because



script continued

then everybody knows how powerful and amazing *he* is. Think about how people cheered for that guy who built a cool house of cards. Imagine how it feels to see a miracle happen, which is something only *God* can do! God wants us to look at him and say, “Wow! You’re amazing”

We’ve talked about how God made a donkey talk, tore down walls with just the sound of trumpets and yelling, and made the sun stand still. In today’s story, God does another miracle to help his family. God’s family had an enemy army ready to fight them. They were called the Midianites. Can you say, “Midianites”? (Let kids say it.) Great, and God chose a guy named Gideon to lead the Israelites in battle. Can you say, “Gideon”? (Let kids say it.) Good job!

God had a plan for Gideon to beat the Midianites. But it wasn’t going to be a plan that made people say, “Wow, Gideon’s amazing.” It was going to be a plan that made people say, “Wow, GOD’S amazing.”

GIDEON’S ARMY DWINDLES (3 min.)

So Gideon had this army of Israelites. We’re going to pretend you guys are the army, except Gideon’s army had thousands people in...which is way more than in here! Can you guys stand up? (Let kids stand.) The first thing God did was make his army smaller. If anybody would be afraid to fight in a battle, sit down. (Let kids sit. Have more kids sit until only about a third are standing.) This made the army a LOT smaller because many soldiers were afraid.

But God wanted the army to be even smaller. So Gideon led his army to the water and told them to get a drink. They could either drink with their hands, like this (pretend to scoop water into your mouth). Or, they could drink water straight from the water, like an animal (pretend to drink straight from the stream).

Let’s all get a drink—you guys can use your hands or drink straight from the stream. (Let kids pretend to drink.) Raise your hand if you drank straight from the stream, like this (model and let kids respond). OK, you guys have a seat! (Let those kids sit.)

So now, Gideon only had *300 soldiers*, the ones who weren’t scared and who drank from their hands. But he knew that GOD was going to help them beat the Midianites. Now you guys can all have a seat (let kids sit).

GIDEON DEFEATS MIDIAN (5 min.)

There was a tiny Israelite army but there was still a HUGE Midianite army—thousands of soldiers, way more than God’s family even had in the beginning. It looks pretty impossible... how do you think they could win? (Let kids make predictions. Call on kids until somebody suggests something about special weapons.) Those are great ideas. Yes, maybe God gives them special weapons or something like that.

We’re going to watch a video to see what happened. As you watch, pay special attention to figure out exactly how they won the fight.

Video: Gideon and the Army of 300 (about 1 minute)



script continued

Oh my goodness, how did they win the fight? (Let kids respond.) That's right, they didn't use *any* weapons. They used jars, trumpets and torches! They surrounded the army, blew the trumpets and...the scared the Midianites so badly that they fought each other and ran away! The **ONLY** way that could have happened is because God was helping Gideon and his family.

After the battle, everybody knew *God* was the reason they won the fight. Can you guys say, "Wow, God's amazing!" (Let kids say it.)

TRUST IN THE LORD (5 min.)

Gideon probably had no idea what God would do. It made **NO** sense to go to battle without any weapons! That seemed impossible. But even though Gideon didn't understand how he would win, he trusted God with his whole heart. You know, that reminds me of Proverbs 3:6-5:

SLIDE: Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Wow, that's *exactly* what happened with Gideon. Let's read it together! (Lead kids in reading it out loud.) The better we can remember this verse, the more we're going to remember to trust God when we face hard things too! We've actually got a few kids who have tried to remember the whole thing already. Let's see if they can do it:

Video: Verse-O-Dome Proverbs 3:5-6 (about 3 min.)

Oh no! That monkey didn't play the game right, did he? If you want to try it out too, you can do it in your small group. Or you can just practice at home!

RESPOND AND PRAY (4 min.)

Now let's take time to remember the amazing things God has done. This is time for you to talk to God and listen to him. We're going to play a song. As it plays, you can think the words in your head or say them out loud. The words tell God that we believe he's in charge and we want to obey him. One way to show God we think he's amazing is to tell him we'll do whatever he says! You can also ask him to show you how great he is—he loves doing that!

Music Video: Boss of Me

Great worship, everybody! Now let's pray: God, you are truly amazing. You do impossible things that we could never do on our own...and never even imagine! Show us more about how great you are. We love you!

WORSHIP (2 min.)

Let's worship God by telling him some of the things that are true about him. This song is called "You Are" and it's all about how great God is.

Music Video: You Are (with dance moves)

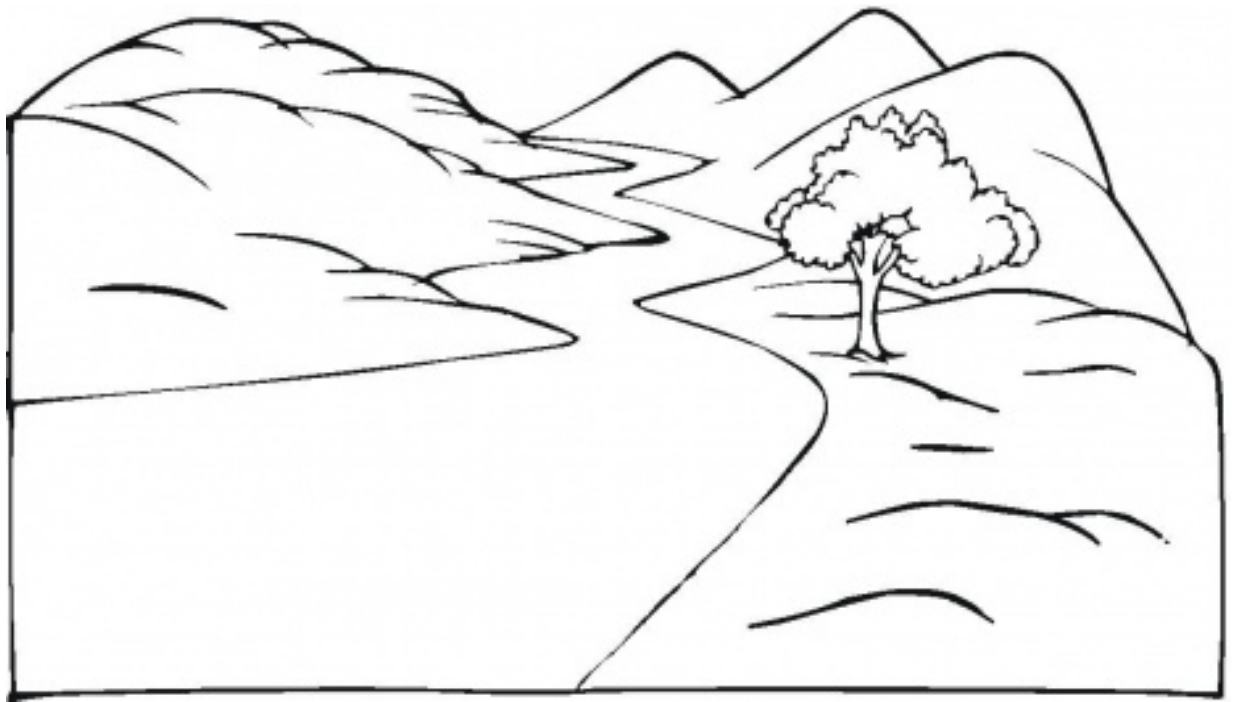
**Dismiss kids to small groups.*



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name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Possible/Impossible game – no supplies needed

small group supplies

Per kid

1 popsicle stick
1 small piece of red, yellow and orange tissue paper

Per group

Markers
1 Bible
glue sticks

large group supplies

Bible
8 playing cards

a/v needs

1. Slide: Believe It or Not! loop
2. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
3. Video: Man Building Cards (<https://vimeo.com/27920197>)
4. Video: Gideon and the Army of 300 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyy1R8Bpq10>)
5. SLIDE: Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.
6. Video: Verse-O-Dome

(<https://vimeo.com/129697546>)

7. Music Video: Boss of Me (<https://vimeo.com/118151941>)
8. Music Video: You Are (<https://vimeo.com/112963091>)

connect questions

Tell me about Gideon.
What amazing thing did God do?

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