



Kindergarten-2nd

September 24-25, 2016

DATE

Gideon

LESSON TITLE

Judges 6, Isaiah 40:28

WHERE TO FIND IT

God is in control.

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

Set an example during crucial parts of the hour: for instance, during worship! Kids will feel much more open and encouraged to sing and dance if they see YOU singing and dancing with high energy and a smile on your face!

check-in/out

As kids leave, make sure they have a **prayer poster**, and remind them to show it to their parents, and use it as a part of prayer this week!

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 is ALWAYS in control, so we never have to be afraid.

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.*

BEACH BALL RESCUE

- Stick a piece of **painter's tape** on the floor, in the middle of an open area.
- Split kids into **two teams** and have them stand on opposite sides of the tape, while the volunteers stay on the sidelines.
- Tell kids that the teams will get to toss a **beach ball** back and forth over the tape.
- Along with another adult volunteer, physically demonstrate for kids how to throw/catch the ball safely:
 - Throw it gently and not too fast
 - If someone throws the ball to you, catch it and then throw it back over to someone new.
- Every time the ball falls on the ground, an adult volunteer has to choose someone from that team (where the ball fell on the ground), and move them to the **other** team.
- Keep playing until there's only one person left on one team, then, if you have time, start over!

TALK ABOUT IT

- Why was it harder to play with just a few people on your team? How did it feel when your team was smaller? How did it feel when your team was bigger?
- Tell us about one time you felt scared because you had to do something you didn't think you could do.

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. 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) understand how God helped Gideon and the Israelites win the battle, (2) recognize that Gideon had to give up control to God, and (3) identify how God is in control of our lives too!

Why? It's difficult to admit that we're not in control of our own lives, but it's necessary if we want to have a close relationship with our Creator! We just have to admit that sometimes we're afraid, and we need His help.

Tip: If a glow stick breaks, just have kids wash their hands.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. When the Israelites needed to be rescued, what soldier did God ask to help rescue them? (Gideon.)
2. When God first asked Gideon to lead his family into battle, what did Gideon do? (He was scared; he asked God to do miracles to show his power.)
3. Did God want Gideon to have a big army, or a small army? Why? (A small army! To show that God was the only reason they won the battle.)
4. What did Gideon and the 300 men take with them when they snuck up on the enemy at night? (Torches in jars, horns to blow.)
5. What is one thing you're not sure you can do on your own? How would you like God to help you with it?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give each kid a **jar image** and set out **markers**.
- Give each kid a **glow stick** and set out **tape**. Tell kids to bend the glow stick until it makes a cracking sound and starts to glow. They can shake it to make it glow brighter. *(For kindergarteners, you may want to do this for them.)*
- Kids can then tape their glow stick on the jar image, just like Gideon and his army carried glowing torches in real jars!
- Remind kids that when the Israelites carried the torches in jars to defeat the enemy, it probably seemed kind of strange! But God was in control no matter what, and we can trust him to take care of us.
- **Make sure to leave time for the next activity.***

(Continued on next page.)

PRAYER POSTER

- Give each kid a **prayer poster**, and tell them that it has lots of ideas about how to pray to God throughout the week. When we pray to God, it's a way of giving him control, and relying on him to help us!
- Pick out 1 or 2 ideas from the prayer poster and do it with kids before leaving Small Group! You could even have some kids from the group take the lead on a prayer-related activity from the poster.

*Extra time? Have kids do a **coloring sheet**. After that, play "Simon Says" to remember what it means for someone to be in control, and how we need to obey! 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.*

special notes

Today's script calls for some props: **2 cotton balls** and a **foam cup filled with water**.

presenter tips

You can find today's God's Story video on crossroadskidsclub.net/weekend.

script

WELCOME AND INTRO

Main Goal: Review Connect Time and introduce the lesson.

Notes:

*Click to play intro music.

- **Welcome:** Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. We're so glad to have you here! Great job playing beach ball. Raise your hand if you like volleyball! (Let kids respond.) Raise your hand if you like basketball! (Let kids respond.) Raise your hand if you like baseball! (Let kids respond.) Last one, raise your hand if you don't like any kind of ball games! (Let kids respond.) Yeah, we all like different kinds of games!
- **Ask:** Before we get started today, we're going to spend some time with God by singing and dancing. Do you think singing and dancing can be a good way to be close to God? (Let kids respond.) Sure it can! So let's all stand up and sing about how God makes us brave.
- **Music Video: The Brave Ones**
- **Music Video: Grow Up Like Jesus**
- **Ask:** Okay, go ahead and have a seat. When we were playing with the beach ball in Connect Time, which was easier: Playing with lots of people, or playing with fewer people? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, it was probably easier with more people on your team. When your team is bigger, it's often easier to win the game! Today we're going to talk about a small team in the Bible, God's family, and a big team that wanted to defeat them. We'll see if God can help his family win, even though they're a smaller team!

INTRO: GIDEON

Main Goal: Introduce Gideon and how God chose him to help rescue the Israelites.

Notes:

- **Say:** We've been learning all about the Israelites, God's special family, and how he rescued them over and over again.
- **(Click to show image of God's rescues.)**
- **Say:** He rescued them from slavery in Egypt. He rescued them while they wandered around in the wilderness. He even rescued them when a giant, scary city was in the way of their new home, and he brought the city walls crumbling down!
- **Ask:** Do you think God had the power to rescue them AGAIN? (Let kids respond.) Yes! Before we get to that, let me introduce a guy named Gideon.
- **(Click to show image of Gideon.)**
- **Ask:** Can you say, "Gideon"? (Let kids respond.) Gideon was a part of God's family. But during Gideon's time, something really sad was happening. God's family turned away from him. They forgot all the times God had rescued them, and they needed to be reminded of who was in control.

BEING IN CONTROL

Main Goal: Understand what it means to be in control.

Notes:

- **Say:** When someone else is in control, that means they are in charge. They decide what's going to happen, or where we go, or what we do. Let's think of some different ways that we listen to others who are in control.
- **(Click to show image of car.)** If we're in a car, and a grown up is driving us to school, who's in control? (Let kids respond.) Yep, the grown up who's driving!
- **(Click to show image of coach.)** If we're on a sports team, and there's a coach helping us play the game and practice, who's in control? (Let kids respond.) Yep, the coach!
- **(Click to show image of teacher.)** What about when we're in a classroom at school, who's in control of the class? (Let kids respond.) Yep, the teacher!
- **Say:** Kind of like that, God is the one who's in control of the world. He gives people choices, but he has power to do ANYTHING. Many times, the Israelites forgot he was in control, even though he had rescued them before. They wanted to be in charge all by themselves, and they didn't want to wait for God's timing. The thing is, God doesn't always rescue us right away. Sometimes we go through hard times, but we can still trust in God's plan!

GOD RESCUES THE ISRAELITES

Main Goal: See how God rescued the Israelites from their enemies!

- **Say:** We're going to watch a video and see how God rescues the Israelites again, with Gideon's help. As you watch, try to figure out who's in control of the battle.
- **Video: God's Story / Gideon**
- **Ask:** That story was incredible! Who do you think was *really* in control of the battle, the whole time? (Let kids respond.) Yep, definitely God. Let's look at some of the ways that God showed Gideon that he was in charge.

GOD PROVES HIS POWER

Main Goal: Identify why Gideon doubted God, and understand the miracles God did to show his power.

Notes:

- **Say:** When God saw that his family was in trouble again, he had a plan to save them, but his plan didn't make sense to Gideon at first.
- **Ask:** When God asked Gideon to help rescue the Israelites, did he say "Yes!" right away? (Let kids respond.) Nope. He even said, "I'm too weak! I'm not important!" He didn't think we was strong enough to do something so big! He doubted God.
- **Say:** So he asked God to do some miracles first. A miracle is something amazing that **ONLY** God can do. And Gideon wanted to make sure that God was powerful enough to help him save a whole army.
- **Say:** First, Gideon asked God to make some fleece wet, and the ground dry. Fleece feels kind of like this cotton ball (Hold up a **cotton ball**.) So when Gideon left the fleece out overnight, God made the fleece wet (Put a few drops of **water** on the cotton ball) but left the ground dry!
- **Ask:** After that, do you think Gideon trusted God? Or did he ask God to do something **ELSE**? (Let kids respond.) You're right, Gideon asked God for something else.
- **Say:** This time, he told God to make the fleece dry, and the ground wet! (Hold up the second **cotton ball** and sprinkle some **water** on the floor with your fingers.) Did God do it? (Let kids respond.) Yes!

GIDEON WAS AFRAID

Main Goal: Understand why Gideon was afraid, and didn't trust God right away.

- **Ask:** Do you guys think that Gideon should have trusted God right away? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, I think you're right. Why do you think he didn't he believe God at first? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** It's because he was afraid. Gideon didn't know if God could use him to rescue the Israelites. He thought the enemy was too big and powerful to beat. He was scared, and he didn't want to let God be in charge.

GOD DOES THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Main Goal: Illustrate how God reduced the Israelites army to only 300, all to show that only HE is in control!

Notes:

- **Say:** The thing is, God was in charge all along! No matter how young, or small, or weak Gideon was, God could help him save the Israelites, because God is always in control. Remember that game we played, when the smaller team couldn't beat the bigger team? Well with God, even if we have a smaller team, he can help us do anything!
- **Say:** When Gideon FINALLY believed God, he went and gathered thousands and thousands of soldiers together to fight the battle. It was a pretty big army!
- **Say:** To show how big the army was, let's all stand up and gather close to each other in a group. (**Let kids stand up and form a single group.**) Okay, let's say that you all are the Israelite army! When Gideon showed God the army, what did God say? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yep, He said to make the army smaller! So Gideon told any soldiers who felt scared to go home. (**Ask about two-thirds of the "army" and have them sit down.**) So now, the Israelite army was much smaller. Gideon was probably a little confused, right? Normally, a bigger army would be good.
- **Say:** Next, God said, "There are STILL too many!" So what did he do? (Let kids respond.) Yep, he made the army even smaller! He told the soldiers to go drink from a stream, and whoever used their hands to drink, could stay. Everybody else had to go. (**Ask almost all the rest other kids to sit, leaving only 3 kids standing in the middle.**)
- **Say:** Now, there were only 300 soldiers left! The enemy had way more soldiers than that. But Gideon knew that God had a plan, and was completely in charge. Okay, everyone can sit back down.

THE BATTLE IS WON

Main Goal: See how God helped his family win the battle.

Notes:

- **Say:** With only 300 soldiers, did God help Gideon win the battle? (Let kids respond.) Yes, He showed Gideon what to do, and how to sneak up on the enemy. Gideon and his soldiers surrounded the camp at night time, carrying torches in clay jars, and horns!
- (**Click to show image of torches in clay jars and horns.**) This might seem like a strange way to win a battle, but God doesn't always do things the way WE would do them. He does things differently, to show that he's in control, and not us.

RESPONSE TIME AND PRAYER

Main Goal: Let kids actively respond to the Holy Spirit and close the lesson with prayer.

Notes:

- **Ask:** When the Israelites blew their horns and broke their jars, the Midianites all woke up and got confused! They started fighting themselves, then they were defeated!
- **Say:** God showed his family that the only way they could win the fight...was with HIM! That's why he only wanted a tiny group of soldiers. He didn't want the Israelites to think they won all by themselves.
- **Ask:** Do you ever try to do things on your own, without God's help? (Let kids respond.) Me too. Sometimes, I want to be in charge; I want to be the one in control!
- **Ask:** Do you all want to show God that you're ready to trust him, and let him take care of you instead? (Let kids respond.) Then right now, close your eyes and think of something that you're scared of. Something you can't do all on your own. (Give kids a few seconds of silence.)
- **Say:** Now open you hands in front you of you, like this. (Demonstrate.) This is a way to show God we trust him. We're going to pray together now, and ask God to take control.
- **Pray:** God, we need you, just like Gideon did. Please help us rely on you, and help us with whatever we're afraid of. We love you so much. Amen!

Dismiss kids to small groups.

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per group: 1 beach ball, painter's tape

small group supplies

Per group: Bible, markers, tape

Per kid: Coloring page, 1 jar image (2 BW images per each 8.5x11 cardstock; Page 12); 1 glow stick; 1 prayer poster

large group supplies

Per group: Bible, 2 cotton balls, 1 small water bottle

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. Music Video: The Brave Ones (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQygMcadVzI&feature=youtu.be>)
3. Music Video: Grow Up Like Jesus (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1DtCRDhvlE&feature=youtu.be>)
4. Image: God's Rescues (Put the following 3 images on 1 slide: Egypt rescue; wilderness rescue; jericho rescue)
5. Image: Gideon (waiting on God's Story screencap)
6. Image: Car
7. Image: Coach
8. Image: Teacher
9. Video: God's Story / Gideon (video link not yet available)
10. Image: Torches in clay jars and horns (Put the following 2 images on 1 slide: torches in clay jars; horns)(waiting on video screencaps)

connect questions

Tell me about Gideon.
How did God win the battle?

name



