



# 3<sup>rd</sup>—5<sup>th</sup>

October 18,19, 2014

DATE

Judges 3: 12-30, Isaiah 40:31  
The Adventure Bible (pp. 269, 793)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Ehud

LESSON TITLE

God Uses Unlikely People

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

Today we want to encourage and build kids up so that they're prepared to believe God can use them no matter how "unlikely" they are. Find ways to intentionally encourage kids today!

## check-in/out

Ask kids about the hand tracings they made, and what they wrote inside them. Ask them about a specific way that God could use them!

## large group heads up

Ehud was an unlikely hero because he was left-handed, but we don't want kids to feel bad if they themselves are left-handed. Make sure to acknowledge that we ALL have aspects of ourselves that we wish could be different, and God might want to specifically use those aspects as part of his plan.

## 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.*

### Opposite Games

*\*Break kids into small groups (or if needed, stay in a large group)*

- Ask kids to hold up the hand they write with.
- Now tell kids to only hold up the hand that they DO NOT write with. If a kid is right handed, they will use their left hand. If a kid is left handed, they will use their right hand.
- Tell your kids to try and do each of these activities using only their “opposite hand”, the hand that they don’t normally use.
  - Hand each kid a **marker** and a **piece of paper** and tell them to write their first and last name, their favorite animal, favorite color, etc.
  - Have them draw a picture of themselves.
  - Crumble their papers up and try to throw it in the **small group bin** (you can set the **bin** far away from the group to make it harder).
  - Play thumb wars with a few partners.
- After you're done, ask kids 1) Have you ever felt like you weren't good enough to do something? Why? and 2) What were the best and worst parts of your week?

**Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their 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 Ehud and **(2)** know that no matter what their abilities are, God wants to use them as part of his plan.

**Why:** Kids all have different traits and personalities, and God wants to use each one, no matter what we can or can't do.

**Tip:** Kids may feel insecure about their own abilities or weaknesses, so be sure to encourage and build them up this week!

## small group

### REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER:

\*Pass around a **bean bag** to the person who's speaking. Each group member should be prepared to hold the bean bag and answer questions.

1. What did the Israelites do even though God saved them again and again?
2. Why do you think they kept forgetting what God did for them?
3. Who did God send to deliver them from King Eglon?
4. How did God use Ehud's weakness to defeat the king?
5. Has anybody ever made you feel like you couldn't do something, or that you weren't good enough?
6. How does God see those "weaknesses"? What is a way he could use you?

### ACTIVITY

- Hand each kid **2 pieces of construction paper**, get **scissors and glue sticks** for the table.
- On one piece of paper, tell kids to trace their "opposite hand" (the one they DON'T write with).
- Inside the hand, tell kids to write down one thing they think they aren't good at. Have them cut it out and glue it *facedown* on their paper (the sentence they wrote should be facedown).
- On the blank side of the hand tracing, have kids write something that God loves about them. It could be something they like or don't like, but emphasize that God loves us and can use us no matter how unlikely we are.
- Have kids decorate their hand with designs, rings, bracelets, tattoos, and anything to make it unique to themselves.



**Prayer**

Ask God to reveal to us how he can turn our weaknesses into strengths. Ask him to help us appreciate the unique traits he's given us.

***Extra time?*** Do more left-handed (or right-handed) activities! You could get some paper and markers and have kids try to right the ABC's as fast as they can, or try to draw a portrait of someone else. You could also have them do tasks like skipping across the room with only one leg, or picking up a marker with no hands at all!



## special notes

There's an opportunity in the lesson for you to share a personal story about something you used to dislike about yourself, but that God has helped you overcome and see as a strength that he can use. Kids really pay attention to personal examples of how we aren't perfect, and we need God in our lives too.

## presenter tips

Here's a link to a video we'll use during large group:

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

The worship videos can be found here:

Bravery: <http://vimeo.com/49923937>

All Our Hope: <http://vimeo.com/99668247>

## script

***\*Click to play intro music***

Hey everybody, welcome to Kids' Club! It's going to be an awesome day, and I'm so glad you're here to be a part of it. We just played a little game using our hands, but who can tell me what was special about it? (Let a kid answer). That's right, you used your opposite hand! Why was it so hard to use that hand? (Let another kid respond.) Yep, it's because we usually write and do things with one hand above the other. Our opposite hand isn't designed to do those things; that's just how God made us!

### **INTRO: EHUD**

Today we're learning about a guy named Ehud who was a pretty awesome warrior from the Bible! There was something different about him though—he was left-handed! Now this may not seem like a big deal to us today, but back then it was. Being a left-handed soldier was looked down on. It meant you couldn't do things that other people could do. And most likely, Ehud wasn't just left-handed, but he couldn't even use his right hand at all.

Let's try this out for ourselves. Everybody stand up. I want you to go find a person you've never met before, and shake hands with your LEFT hand. If you're already left handed, then use your right hand. Ask your partner 2 questions: 1) What's their name, and 2) What's something different about them that's not the same as other people? It could be good, or bad. Okay everybody, go ahead and find a partner! (Give kids a few minutes to interact, then regroup.)

Can I have a few volunteers come up here to share what you talked about? (Let 2 sets of kids come up and share their responses.) Wow, thanks guys! You know what? We're all unique and different. Sometimes we feel good about those things, and sometimes we don't.



## script continued

### GOD'S FAMILY REBELS

We're going to read about Ehud in the book of Judges today. It's a book in the Bible that's all about God's family, the Israelites. Raise your hand if you've ever heard of the Israelites? (Let kids respond.) They are actually still living today! They live in Israel, which is way over on the other side of the world.

God's family was an interesting bunch of people. God had delivered them time and time again. Like when he delivered them out of slavery in Egypt (**show slide of Israelites escaping**). Or when he parted the Red Sea for them (**show slide of Red Sea**). Or when he gave them food from heaven (**show slide of water and food**). But guess what? They STILL disobeyed and rebelled against him! Since they didn't have a leader, they were like a class of kids without a teacher, and they just kept misbehaving!

Now if I were God, I would be pretty frustrated with my family. Can someone tell me what you would feel like if you were God in that situation? (Let a kid respond.) Yep, I think you're totally right. But did God leave them alone? (Let kids respond, "No".) No way! He sent leaders to his people called "judges" to help the Israelites out of all the trouble they were getting themselves into!

### GOD SENDS A DELIVERER

One of these leaders, or Judges, was Ehud. (**Show slide of Ehud.**) The one who couldn't use his right hand, and who people looked down on. When he came to the Israelites, a nasty guy named King Eglon was oppressing them, which meant that he was really mean and hated the Israelites! We're going to watch a video now about Ehud and King Eglon. As we watch, pay attention to whether or not Ehud lets his disadvantage stop him from carrying out God's plan.

**VIDEO: THE STORY OF EHUD:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdyjSssWVjk>

Wow, what an adventurous story. Especially when all the characters are food! Who wants to tell me how Ehud was able to defeat the king? (Let a kid respond.) That's right! When he was alone with the king, he had his sword hidden on the side of his body that the king would never suspect, and he used his left hand to get it! It was BECAUSE he was left-handed, that he was able to kill King Eglon! Now did Ehud do this all on his own? (Let kids respond.) No way! God was the one with the plan. And his plan included Ehud AND his weakness.

Everybody stand up for a minute. I think it would be a pretty big weakness if we could only use one of our feet, right? Well we're all going to shout "GOD CAN USE YOU NO MATTER WHAT!" to a friend (**Show "God can use us no matter what" slide.**) but we're going to hop up and down on only one foot while we do it! Ready? Go! (Repeat the sentence with the kids.) Okay, now find one more person, and say it again while you hop! (Repeat sentence with the kids.) Great job guys, go ahead and have a seat.

You know, even grown ups feel unlikely sometimes. (**Share a personal story about something that you used to not like about yourself, but now you appreciate because God has shown you that he can use anything for his purpose.**)



script continued

### THE ULTIMATE DELIVERER

God gave the Israelites many leaders to help and deliver them. But none of them could completely save the people. Only one person could do that. Only one person was the ultimate deliverer. Does anyone know who that is? (Let kids respond with 'Jesus!') Yes! Jesus is the most amazing deliverer we could ever ask for. And, more than anyone in the Bible, Jesus used UNLIKELY people to carry out his plan. People like poor fishermen who never thought Jesus would want them to be his disciples! People who nobody else liked, or even hated!

Let's look at this verse. It's all about how we can rely on God to make us strong, even when we are weak. Let's all read this together:

**SLIDE: ISAIAH 40:31: But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.**

What does this verse tell us we need to do to get strength from God? (Let a kid respond.) That's right, we have to trust in God! When we trust in him, it doesn't matter what our weaknesses are, because HE MAKES US STRONG. And no matter what abilities we have or don't have, or how old we are, he can use *you* and *you* and *you* (point to multiple kids) and *all of us* for his plan.

Let's all stand up and worship God! Let's celebrate and serve him by singing about how he gives us bravery, even when we're afraid!

### VIDEO: BRAVERY

This next song celebrates how we can put all our hope in God. We can trust him to take care of us no matter what.

### VIDEO: ALL OUR HOPE

### PRAYER

God, we ask you to use our weaknesses as part of your amazing plan. Help us to trust you, and give us new strength when we feel weak, or sad or angry. We love you, and thank you for sending us the ultimate deliverer, Jesus.



**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Per kid: 1 marker, 1 piece of paper  
Per group: Small group bin

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## small group supplies

Per kid: 2 pieces of colored construction paper.  
Per group: 1 bean bag, 1 Bible (pp. 269, 793),  
markers, scissors, and glue sticks.

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## large group supplies

The Adventure Bible (pp. 269, 793)

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## 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. Slide: Israelites escaping
3. Slide: Red Sea parting
4. Slide: Food and Water
5. Slide: Ehud
6. Video: (start at 1:17) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdyjSssWVjk>
7. Slide: "God can use you no matter what"
8. Slide: Isaiah 40:31: But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.
9. Video: Bravery: <http://vimeo.com/49923937>
10. Video: All Our Hope: <http://vimeo.com/99668247>

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## connect questions

What do you think God loves about you?  
Who was Ehud?

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## parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc