



GIDEON



JUDGES 6-8

Instructions

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

Tell the Bible Story

The Israelites once again did not obey God, so God allowed them to be ruled by their enemies, the Midianites. The Midianites were cruel to Israel. They took Israel's food and animals. The Israelites remembered how good life was when they loved and obeyed God. They cried out to God, "Save us!"

The angel of the Lord came and sat under an oak tree. He appeared to a man named Gideon and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!"

Gideon was afraid. His family was the weakest family in his tribe, and he was the youngest son in the family. But the Lord had chosen Gideon to deliver the Israelites from the power of their enemy. The Lord assured Gideon, "I will be with you."

When the time came to go to battle, Gideon blew a ram's horn. An army of men gathered be-



hind Gideon, ready to fight. Gideon wanted a sign from God. He prayed, “I will put fleece on the ground. If the fleece is wet with dew, but the ground is dry, I will believe that You will deliver Israel as You say.”

That is exactly what happened; the fleece was so wet that Gideon squeezed enough water out of it to fill a bowl. But Gideon asked for another sign. This time, the fleece was dry and the ground was wet.

God told Gideon that he had too many people with him. Gideon sent home everyone who was afraid to fight. Ten thousand men remained. “That’s still too many,” God said. God made a test for the people. All of them were to go to the river to drink the water. Anyone who knelt to drink water was sent home, but whoever lapped the water with his hand to his mouth stayed. Three hundred men remained.

That night, Israel’s army carried torches, blew their trumpets, and shattered pitchers. They ran toward the camp of Midianites. Gideon and his army chased the Midianites, and they ran away. God gave Israel the victory.

The Israelites said, “Gideon, you rescued us! Now we want you to be our king.” Gideon said, “No, God will rule over you.” But after Gideon died, the Israelites once again ignored God and forgot about Him, who had delivered them from the power of their enemies.



CHRIST CONNECTION:

The Israelites cried out to God because they knew they could not save themselves. Even Gideon was not enough to save them; God used Gideon to help His people, but God fought the battle for them. The people needed someone who was mighty to save. Jesus Christ came to save us from sin because we cannot save ourselves. Only God, through Christ, can save us.



Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Explain that today's Bible story comes from Judges 6–8. Challenge your kids to identify which Bible division the Book of Judges is in. (Old Testament History)

Ask the following questions. Lead your kids and discuss:

1. How did God use the Israelites' weakness to show His power?

Guide your kids to recall that God instructed Gideon to reduce the size of the army from 32,000 to 300 men. Israel could not claim the victory came from their own strength; victory came from the Lord.

2. How do you think Gideon felt about God's calling on his life?

Emphasize to your kids that Gideon recognized his own weakness. He did not think he could deliver Israel and asked God repeatedly to confirm his calling. Gideon had to learn that God works through our weakness to show His power.

3. Are you ever afraid to follow God like Gideon was? How does Gideon's story help you handle your fear?

Lead your kids to recognize that the victory did not depend on Gideon and his strength. The victory came from God; He is mighty to save. We can rely on God to bless our faithful obedience and to give us power to do what He calls us to do. When God accomplishes His plan through our weakness, He gets glory.

SAY:

In our Bible story today, God raised up Gideon to deliver Israel from their enemies, the Midianites. The Midianites were from Midian. Gideon and his army of 300 men chased away the Midianites, and God showed Gideon that victory comes from Him.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why was Gideon afraid to obey God?

He was the youngest son from the weakest family in Israel, Judg. 6:15

2. What signs did Gideon ask God for?

A fleece to be wet and the ground dry, then the fleece to be dry and the ground wet; Judg. 6:36-40

3. What did God do to reduce the size of Gideon's army?



First, God told Gideon to send home those afraid. Then God told Gideon to send home many men based on how they drank water; Judg. 7:3-8

4. Why did God want Gideon to fight with such a small army?

Guide your kids to understand that God was teaching Gideon, and all His people, that He was enough to protect them and give them victory. God did not want the people to boast about their victory but to worship Him instead.

5. What are some ways God gives us victory today?

Guide your kids to discuss the fact that God can give us victory in many ways. When we need healing, when we need peace, when we need wisdom to make choices, God can provide us with those things. Help your kids see that through Jesus' death and resurrection, our greatest victory, over sin and death, is secure.

6. What are some things people trust in or boast in today?

Help your kids see that many boast in wealth, success, fame, or material comforts. Remind kids that those things, though they can be nice, are not able to save us. We need Jesus to save us and should boast only in Him.



SAY:

God showed Gideon that victory comes from Him. When we trust Jesus, we have victory in Him.