

LESSON 46

# God Calls Gideon

JUDGES 6:1-35



**BIBLE TRUTH**

GOD CALLS GIDEON IN ORDER TO DISPLAY HIS POWER AND SAVE HIS PEOPLE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

**1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** Twelve pictures of idols (search “pagan idols” on the Internet). Alternatively, make a simple line drawing of a cow with horns and make 12 copies; drawing of a cross; masking tape

**2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 46)

**3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

**Where Is Jesus?**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

**4. SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** Snack food/water

**5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5–10 MIN**

**6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN**

**Coloring Page 46**

**SUPPLIES:** markers/crayons

**Following What We See**

**SUPPLIES:** large picture of an idol

**Gideon’s Weakness Points Us to God’s Strength**

**SUPPLIES:** light dumbbells (2–5 lbs.); heavy dumbbell (20+ lbs.); a strong adult

**7. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

**TOTAL 60–75 MIN**

THE LESSON

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God called Gideon to destroy his father’s idols.

Bring to class the following: twelve pictures of idols (search “pagan idols” on the Internet) (alternatively, bring twelve copies of a simple line drawing of a cow with horns); a drawing of a cross; and tape.

Prior to class, tape the idol pictures around your room in groups of three. On one wall first tape a drawing of a cross to the wall, and then tape the idols over it, hiding it.

When the children come in ask them what is different about the room and see if they can guess what the pictures show. Ask them what God wants us to do with idols. (They may say that we should have nothing to do with them. If so, ask what we should do with the ones in the room.)

Go around the room, pull the pictures off the walls, and give one to each child. Then lead the class in tearing up the idols.

Once the idols are destroyed, point out the cross that was hidden underneath the idols. Then ask the children what happened to the cross (representing our worship of Jesus) when there were a lot of idols up on the walls. We couldn’t see it. This is what happens when we have idols in our lives; we can lose sight of Jesus.

Tell the class that an idol can be anything we love more than God. It could be our toys, or playing outside, or our friends. If we love and want them more than we love or want God, it is like having all these idols (point out the pieces of torn up idols) hanging up in our lives.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 46, “God Calls Gideon,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **Why did the Israelites live in caves?**  
*(The people of Israel forgot about God and were attacked by the Midianites, so they hid.)*
- **Who visited Gideon?**  
*(The angel of the Lord visited Gideon.)*
- **What did the angel of the Lord say to Gideon?**  
*(The angel told Gideon that he was sending him to deliver Israel from the Midianites.)*
- **How did Gideon feel about this difficult job?**  
*(Gideon felt he was not strong enough, but the angel of the Lord assured him that the Lord would make him strong.)*

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- **Why did Gideon bring a basket of meat and freshly baked bread to the angel of the Lord?**  
*(Gideon wanted to give an offering to the Lord to show his worship.)*
- **What did the angel of the Lord do to Gideon's offering?**  
*(The angel of the Lord touched it with the end of his staff, and it caught fire and burned up.)*
- **What other signs did God give to Gideon to help him in his faith?**  
*(At Gideon's request, God caused dew to come upon the fleece but not the ground and then on the ground but not on the fleece.)*
- **What does God's sign to Gideon tell us about God?**  
*(The signs God gave Gideon show us that God is all-powerful and in control of everything, even the dew that falls in the morning.)*

## Where Is Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following comments connecting today’s lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God’s greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Judges 6:11–24

God was patient with Gideon and built his faith with many miraculous signs. The most important sign God gave Gideon was when the angel of the Lord visited him. In Judges 6:16 (NIV), the Lord answered Gideon’s concerns about being the weakest of his family, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together.”

Like Gideon, our salvation completely depends on God. We, like Gideon, face an impossible enemy, sin. Only the blood of Jesus our Redeemer can bring victory for our own lives and help us win others for Christ. In a similar statement, Jesus said to his disciples in giving them the Great Commission, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). The Lord was with Gideon to win the battle, and he is with us as well.

### **WORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5–10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the WORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

### **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. . . . . 20–30 MIN**

#### **Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page 46—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Why did God want Gideon to tear down the statue?  
(*God is a jealous God who commands us to have no other gods before him.*)

- What did Gideon think would happen when he wrecked the idol?  
*(He thought the people of the town would be very angry, but he trusted the Lord and did as the Lord instructed.)*
- What happened as a result of Gideon's courageous act?  
*(The courage of Gideon began to spread through the town.)*

### Following What We See

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ large picture of an idol

Hold up the picture and ask the children what it shows. (By now, they will likely say a statue or an idol.) Tell them this is the type of “god” that the Philistines followed. But this was also the type of god that the Israelites kept sinfully following.

Ask the children why someone would believe this statue was a god rather than the God who created the universe. (Accept any answer.)

Tell the children that people find it easier to follow a god they can see. Our God, the one who created the universe, is an invisible God. He is powerful and real, but we cannot see him. When we sin and want God to be one we can see, we are tempted to follow after idols.

Tell the children that Jesus is the Son of God. Read aloud the first half of Colossians 1:15: “He is the image of the invisible God.” God had mercy on us and sent Jesus so we could see him.

### Gideon's Weakness Points Us to God's Strength

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ light dumbbells (2–5 lbs.)
- ✓ heavy dumbbell (20+ lbs.)
- ✓ strong adult

Line the children up and show them the dumbbells. See who can lift the lighter of the two up over their head. Then repeat the exercise again with the heavier dumbbell. Some children may be able to move it or even lift it a touch off the ground but none of the children would be able to lift it over their head.

Explain that Gideon was not very strong. When God called Gideon, he said that his clan was the weakest clan (Judges 6:15) and that he was the least of his father's house. Pick up the smaller dumbbell; show the class and say, "Gideon was not a strong man. I wonder why God didn't pick a strong man to save Israel." (This is the clue for your volunteer to pick up the larger dumbbell and start lifting it effortlessly.)

Pick one of the smaller children to lift the smaller dumbbell. Tell the class to pretend the smaller child is Gideon, and ask them why they think God picked Gideon instead of a mighty warrior (point to your strong volunteer) to be the champion and rescue God's people. The answer is that God wanted to get the glory. If God picked a strong warrior, then maybe the people would forget about God and worship the man instead, thinking he was the one who saved them. God wanted the people to always know that He is the God who saves. That is why he picked Gideon.

**PRAY** ..... **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

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