

LESSON 47

Gideon's Victory

JUDGES 6:36–7:25



BIBLE TRUTH

THE HAND OF THE LORD SAVES ISRAEL

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Eight pieces of cardboard with the word “Bible” written on the front; blindfold

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 47)

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 47

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Gideon Puppet Show

SUPPLIES: six puppets—narrator and five soldiers

Circle Time

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 used Gideon to deliver Israel from their enemies.

Bring to class eight pieces of cardboard with the word “Bible” written on the front and a blindfold.

Before class, line up the cardboard pieces like stepping stones on a curved path about a foot apart.

Ask for a volunteer to step from cardboard to cardboard blindfolded. After blindfolding them, turn them around once or twice to disorient them but not so much to make them dizzy. Get them started on the first stepping-stone, staying by their side to act as a spotter. Let them try walking the cardboard trail on their own. Then encourage the other children to speak out directions while you help the volunteer stay on the path. Afterward, ask the children who walked on the path if the instructions helped them stay balanced.

God sometimes asks us to do things that are too hard for us to do alone, so we learn to depend on him. In our story today we are going to see how God helped Gideon.

Wrap things up by sharing Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

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

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 47, “Gideon’s Victory,” 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:

- What happened in the story?

(With only three hundred men, Israel, by God's power, was able to defeat a much bigger army of Midianites.)

- Why did the Lord tell Gideon to have only three hundred soldiers do the fighting?

(God told Gideon that his army was too big—that a small army would beat the Midianites. God was teaching Israel to put their trust in the power of God. So, even though their enemy was thousands of soldiers bigger, God fought for Israel that day and used only three hundred soldiers to defeat the Midianites.)

- Gideon became afraid after the Lord told him to fight with so small an army. What did God tell Gideon to do so he would not be afraid?

(God told Gideon to sneak down at night to where the Midianites were camping and listen to what the Midianites were saying about Israel. When Gideon did this he heard that the Midianites were afraid of Israel and God because of bad dreams they were having about fighting Israel.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

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

- Gideon's story is amazing. What amazed you most about this story?
- Do you know anyone that reminds you of Gideon?
- Have you ever been afraid of something? What was it? How did God help you to be brave and not afraid?
- What would you have done if Gideon had asked you to be one of the three hundred soldiers called to fight the huge army of the Midianites? Would you have trusted the Lord? Would you have believed God and followed Gideon?

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

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

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 8:27

The story of Gideon is a story of God saving his people. Gideon followed the Lord in faith during the battle, but it wasn't long after the battle ended that Gideon fell into sin. He made a golden ephod (a vestlike outer garment). All of Israel came to see it and sinned in its presence. The house of God was in Shiloh and it was there that the priest wore a golden ephod. Gideon created his own alternate place of worship. One day a deliverer would come who would not sin—Jesus the Lord.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 47—one copy for each child

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

- If you were going into battle against your enemy what would you rather have, a trumpet or a sword?
- If you were going into battle against your enemy what would you rather have, a trumpet with God's help on your side or a sword without God's help?

(Of course it would be better to have a trumpet and God because he is all-powerful and does not need swords to win battles.)

- Do you think Gideon's men were afraid?

(Yes, they were afraid, but God gave them faith to trust him for the victory.)

- What kinds of things could the Lord have done to defeat the Midianites other than using the Israelites?

(He could have brought disease, fire, earthquakes, or any other means to defeat Gideon's enemies.)

Gideon Puppet Show

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a puppet for the narrator
- ✓ five hand puppets that look like soldiers. Gideon and the two Israelite soldiers can be identified with blue material. Gideon's leadership rank can be identified with a gold sash. Two Midianite soldiers can be identified with red material.

Narrator: Good morning children. Welcome to our puppet show. Today we are going to tell the story of the amazing thing God did when Gideon and the Israelites defeated the Midianites. Are you ready? Are you excited? Well let's begin!

(Gideon appears on stage.) Meet Gideon. Gideon is the leader of Israel's army. He loves God and wants to obey God no matter what. And in the battle with the evil Midianites, God shows Gideon and Israel that God is stronger than any army—no matter how big.

Gideon: Good morning boys and girls! My name is Gideon. As the leader of Israel's army I had to fight many battles. But no battle was more amazing than the day we fought the Midianites in the land of Canaan!

Narrator: That's right! You see, on that day God told Gideon to fight the Midianites, an enemy whose army numbered in the thousands! Can you say thousands? That's a big number and the Midianite army was a BIGGGGG ARMY! Gideon, why don't you tell us what God told you the day before Israel was going to fight the Midianites.

Gideon: Well, kids! God told me that Israel had to learn that God was stronger than any army—no matter how big and strong. The only way we could learn this was to send most of our soldiers HOME. That's right, HOME! So, the Lord had me send most of the soldiers of Israel's army HOME! Can you believe that? We had thousands of soldiers who were ready to fight, but we only used three hundred to fight and defeat an army that had ten thousand soldiers! Wow!

Narrator: Go on Gideon. Tell us what happened.

Gideon: Well, to be honest, when God said that Israel should fight the Midianites with only three hundred of our men, I was scared. Their army was so big and strong and terrible looking, and ours was so small! The Lord said that he himself would see to it that we would win, even though we only had three hundred men. Did the Lord really mean what he said? Well, the night before we were going to fight, another Israelite and I snuck up real close to the tents where the Midianites were sleeping. When we got to their camp we heard two of their soldiers talking inside of a tent. This is what they said:

(Two Midianite puppets enter.)

Midianite 1: I had a dream. A round loaf of bread tumbled down the hill and struck the Midianite camp. It struck the tent so hard it collapsed! What could that mean?

Midianite 2: The bread must represent the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God will defeat our army and give the victory to Gideon.

(Midianite soldiers leave the stage.)

Narrator: When Gideon heard the dream of the Midianite soldiers, he became excited. In his heart he knew that God was on his side and the side of Israel. He returned to where the army of Israel was camped ...

Gideon: When I returned, I called out "Get up everyone. God is on our side. We must attack the Midianites now!"

Narrator: So with that, Gideon told the men to come with him, to bring their torches but to place them in empty jars so that they wouldn't be seen and bring with them their trumpets as well. Gideon and his three hundred men secretly went to where the Midianites were camping. They surrounded the camp and waited for Gideon's command.

Gideon: After we had surrounded the camp, I gave the order for all of the men to blow their trumpets and smash the jars they were carrying so that their torches could be seen. The Midianites awoke and were scared. They couldn't see anything in the dark except our torches. They couldn't hear anything except the sound of three hundred trumpets blaring. We looked and sounded like a huge army. They became so afraid that they ran away. We had beaten the Midianites, and we never even fought them!

Narrator: So that is the story of God's miraculous defeat of the Midianites. When you have God on your side it doesn't matter how big your enemies are or how small you are—God can do anything for those who trust in him!

Circle Time

Have the class sit in a circle. Tell the children that the God in the story we read today is the same God who cares for them today and is at work in their lives. Use some of the following conversation starters with the group:

- Ask the class to share where they have seen God at work in their lives. Thank the Lord for each of these.

- Ask the class to share where they desire for God to do a miraculous thing in their life or their families. Pray for these together after each person shares.

- Share from your own life times when God has done miraculous things. Thank the Lord for each of these.

- Tell the class that the greatest miracle in all of history is Jesus Christ, the God-Man, coming to earth to live a holy life and die for all of our sins. Those who believe in Jesus and turn away from their sins are saved from the wrath (punishment) of God. What a miracle!

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.

LESSON 47 - GIDEON'S VICTORY

