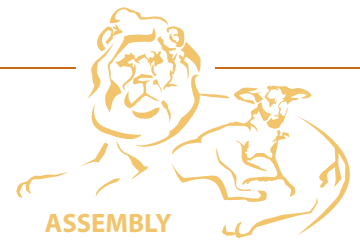


GOD CALLED GIDEON

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JUDGES 6



Portions of this story can be directly read out of the ESV Bible to the children as this story is very entertaining and it's not too complicated.

(Do not move on to Judges 7 as that will be the subject for a subsequent lesson.)

LESSON IDEAS

FLASH THE FLEECE

Supplies:

- two portions of sheep skin
- a plant squirt bottle that mists

Pass the sheepskin around for the children to see. Use the squirt bottle and reenact the test that Gideon placed before the Lord.

Note: Quantity of consumable supplies should be adjusted for the number of sessions you will be teaching.

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.

Gideon's faith to go into battle with so few men did not come quickly. In fact, God was patient with Gideon and built his faith with many miraculous signs. The most important of the signs was the visit by the pre-incarnate Christ (the angel of the Lord in Judges 6:11-24). In Judges 6:16, 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."

Our salvation comes today as it did to Gideon then. We can only be saved if the Lord saves. We, like Gideon, face an impossible enemy, sin and its consequence, death. Only the blood of the Redeemer can bring victory.

Gideon was used by God to save Israel by conquering the Midianites. Gideon's life points forward to Christ.

GOD CALLED GIDEON

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JUDGES 6

PUPPET SHOW

Supplies:

bring a helium balloon attached to a short string and a long monofilament line (fishing line) that will be used to pull the balloon out of the room to simulate it flying away

This show is designed to teach the children that we all can struggle with fear when it comes to doing what God wants us to. It is better to fear and obey God rather than fear and obey man.

(Puppet is on stage and a teacher comes up to him with a helium balloon.)

Teacher: Hi, Puppet. How are you today?

Puppet: I am fine. How are you, Teacher?

Teacher: I am having a good day. Listen Puppet, can you do me a favor? I need to step out to my car and get a few more things. Could you hold my balloon for me?

Puppet: Sure, I will hold it for you.

Teacher: Thank you, Puppet. Hold it tightly so it does not fly away. I'll be back in a minute.

(The teacher hands the balloon to the puppet. The puppet is holding the string in his mouth. The first teacher leaves the room holding the monofilament line connected to the balloon.)

Teacher 2: Hi, Puppet!

Puppet: Hi! (As the puppet speaks he lets go of the balloon and the first teacher pulls the balloon out of the room.)

Teacher 2: Oh no, your balloon is flying away!

Puppet: Oh no! Now what am I going to do? That was not my balloon.

Teacher 2: Whose balloon was it?

Puppet: It was the teacher's balloon. She asked me to hold on to it for a minute. She will be back soon. What will I say?

Teacher 2: You will just have to tell her the truth.

Puppet: Oh no. What will she say? Perhaps I should tell her the wind blew it away.

Teacher 2: That would not be truthful, Puppet. Are you afraid to tell her the truth?

Puppet: Yes, I am afraid I will get into trouble.

Teacher 2: It is better to trust the Lord when we are afraid and do what he tells us to do. We should be more afraid of disobeying God than what a person can say to us.

Puppet: Okay, I'll tell her the truth.

Stop the skit at this point and ask the children if they have ever been afraid to do the right thing, the thing God is calling them to do. Then show them how the fearful puppet was like Gideon.

