

Large Group

Gideon Led Israel

Bible Passage | Judges 4-5

Memory Verse | 2 Chronicles 7:14

Story Point | Gideon learned that victory comes from God alone.



Countdown Video (3 mins)

Memory Verse Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader connects the lesson to the memory verse, leads the memory verse song with hand motions, and closes in prayer.

Welcome (1 mins)

Large Group Leader tell kids what to expect to happen (1 minute)

- watch the lesson video
- retell the story.
- read the story from scripture

Watch the Lesson Video (4 mins)

Retell the Story (11 mins)

Lead the kids in a fun retelling of the story

Here are some resources to help you formulate this time.

Review what we learned:

After Joshua died, the Israelites began a cycle of sin and rebellion against God. They did what was evil and worshiped idols. God judged their sin and allowed foreign nations to rule over them. But then the people cried out, and God sent judges to rescue them. Who are the judges we've learned about so far? [Allow responses.] We've seen how God sent judges like Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, and Deborah to save His people from the consequences of their sin. Yet after these judges died, God's people would turn away from Him again and worship idols. Today, we will see how God sent another judge named Gideon to rescue His people from the Midianites.

Today's Lesson

God's people turned away from Him again, and this time, God allowed the Midianites to attack them. But what did God do that He had done before? [Allow responses.] When the Israelites cried out to God, He sent a judge to rescue them. This time, God sent Gideon to free His people from the Midianites.

What did Gideon say when God called him to defeat the Midianites? [Allow responses.] Gideon questioned God and didn't think he was the man for the job. This reminds me of Moses who also didn't think he was the right man to free the Israelites from Egypt. But it's not about who we are or our strengths and weaknesses. It's about who God is and His promise to be with His people. God promised to be with Gideon and help him defeat the Midianites.

Before Gideon went to battle Midian, he still wanted to be sure God would help him win. What did Gideon ask God to do? [Allow responses.] Gideon asked God for two signs. First, he asked God to keep the fleece wet and the ground dry. The second time, he asked God to keep the fleece dry and the ground wet. Even though God had already promised Gideon victory, Gideon was still doubtful of God's promise. But do God's promises ever fail? No! God is faithful to His promises. We can trust that God will always do as He says.

When Gideon prepared for battle, God told Gideon he had too many men in the army. What did God tell Gideon to do? [Allow responses.] God told Gideon to remove men from the army until he was left with only 300 men. With such a small army, **Gideon learned that victory comes from God alone.** Gideon could have never won the battle without God's power. We cannot save ourselves from sin. We have no power to defeat sin, and we can never be good enough to earn our way to God. Only Jesus can save us from our sin.

Gospel Discussion | Jesus took upon Himself the sins of the world so we can receive the free gift of salvation. It is only through faith in Jesus that we can be saved. The gift is free, but we must accept we are sinners, believe that Jesus died for us and rose again, and confess Him as Lord. If you have questions, I would be happy to tell you more.

Read from the Bible (4 mins)

Judges 6:6, 12, 14-16, 36-40; 7:1-9

Remind Kids of Four Questions (1 min)

- What did you like about today's story?
- What did you find confusing?
- What did you learn about people?
- What did you learn about God?

Worship Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader briefly introduces self, welcomes kids, leads 1st worship song, and prays for the time.