

Gideon

Judges Lesson 2

Lesson Objectives

- The students will describe Gideon's response to God.
- The students will describe one way that God helped Gideon.
- The students will identify a difficult situation in their lives that God can help them overcome.

Lesson Text

Judges 6-7

Scripture Memory Verse

The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.

What can man do to me?

The LORD is with me; he is my helper.

I will look in triumph on my enemies.

Psalm 118:6-7

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Red Badges

Welcome and Singing

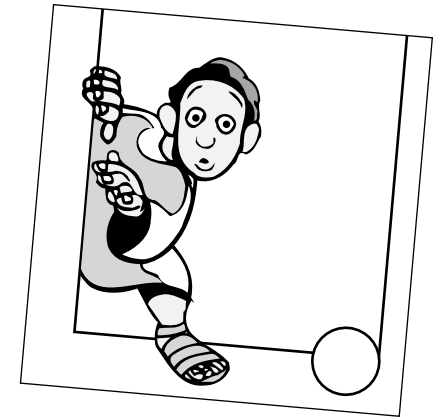
Centers:

Bible Story: A Mighty Warrior

Craft: Gideon and the Judges

Scripture Memory: No Fear

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



Gideon

Red Badges

The students will preview the Bible Story as they make badges to use throughout today's lesson.

Materials

For each student:

- scissors
- 1 piece of yarn, 30"
- glue stick
- red crayon or marker

For the teacher:

- hole punch

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

NOTE: Reproduce Page A on red paper if available.

Preparation

Make a sample Red Badge to show the students.

Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Tell them that today's Bible Story is about a man named Gideon who led God's people to a great victory. Explain that they will be making Red Badges to take with them throughout today's class.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A, scissors and crayons. Tell the students to cut out their badges and color them red.

3. Distribute the glue sticks and yarn. Tell the students to glue the two badges back-to-back. Circulate among the students to punch a hole at the top of each badge on the "x." Have each student thread the yarn through the hole and tie it.
4. Tell the students that they will wear their badges throughout today's lesson. At each activity center, they will be asked to do something that shows trust, faith or obedience and they will receive a special sticker or mark for doing it.
5. Circulate among the students to offer assistance.
6. If students finish early, have them make an extra badge for late arrivals.

Teacher Tips

- Locate a copy of the book *Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane to show the students. Explain that the Red Badge was the symbol for blood that soldiers shed in war. Tell the students that their Red Badges will be a symbol of their trusting, faithful and obedient hearts for God.



Gideon

A Mighty Warrior

The students will learn about Gideon and how God helped him grow in his faith and trust in God.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- Red Badge from Preclass

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- special stickers for each student's Red Badge

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Practice leading this Bible Story using your copy of Reproducible Page B.

Introducing the Bible Story

In our last lesson, you learned about Deborah who was a prophetess, judge and leader of God's people, Israel. Today, you are going to learn about a man named Gideon. God chose Gideon to lead his people in a battle and God helped him to be victorious. This is an awesome story that will show you that God is powerful and that he has a plan!

Open your Bible to Judges 6 and 7. Ask the students if they remember which chapters of Judges have the story of Deborah. (chapters 4 and 5) Tell them that today's lesson is in the next two chapters of Judges, chapters 6 and 7.

Presenting the Bible Story

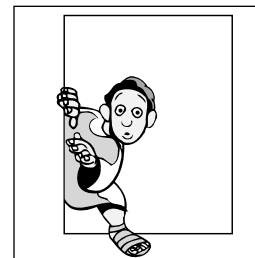
Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page B and the pencils. Tell the students that each picture on the page represents an important point in today's Bible Story. Tell them to listen carefully as you tell the story and then raise their hands when they have found the picture that corresponds to the Bible Story.



a "1" in the bottom corner of the picture.

In Judges 6:7-10, the Bible says:

When the Israelites cried to the LORD because of Midian, he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I snatched you from the power of Egypt and from the hand of all your oppressors. I drove them from before you and gave you their land. I said to you, 'I am the LORD your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."



In Judges 6:1 the Bible says, "Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites." God's people did evil again! They turned their backs on God again! So God allowed his people to be treated badly by their enemies for seven years. Which picture goes with this part of the story? (7 years) Tell the students to write

God spoke through the prophet to remind his people of all the ways that he had rescued and helped them. God wanted them to remember how much he had done for them. But the people worshiped other gods and turned their backs on him. They had not listened to him. Which picture goes with this part of the story? (hands over ears) Tell the students to write a "2" in the bottom corner of the picture.

The Bible says that God sent an angel of the LORD to speak to a man named Gideon. At that time, Gideon was hiding from the enemies so that they would not find his food and take it from him.

The Bible says in Judges 6:12, "When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon,



3rd and 4th Grades

Gideon

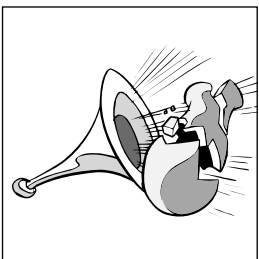
he said, 'The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.'" But Gideon did not feel like a mighty warrior. He told the angel that he and his family were not very powerful. He did not know why God was calling him a "mighty warrior." Which picture do you think belongs to this part of the story? (Who, me?) Tell the students to write a number "3" in the bottom corner of the picture.



At first, Gideon was not sure that the angel was really from God, so he tested him. The angel made fire come from a rock and Gideon believed. Then the angel told Gideon to go and destroy the idols that his family had built to the false gods and use the wood to build a proper altar to the Lord his God. Gideon was afraid of what his family would do, so he waited until night time and then he went and destroyed the idols. When the

people found out what he had done, they wanted to kill him. Gideon's father realized what had happened and he told the people that if the gods were real, they could defend themselves. Which picture belongs to this part of the story? (night scene) Tell the students to write a "4" in the bottom corner of the picture.

Finally, God told Gideon to go and lead a battle against their enemies, the Midianites. God encouraged Gideon by showing him that the enemies were already afraid! God helped Gideon choose men to be in his army.



So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink." Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

The LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place." So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others. (Judges 7:5-8)

Gideon led his fighting men by blowing a trumpet and everyone together broke the jars that they had in their hands. The men called out "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" God caused the enemies to fight and kill each other, and the rest ran away. God gave Gideon and his men a great victory that day! Which picture belongs to this part of the story? (trumpet and broken jar) Tell the students to write a "5" in the bottom corner of the picture.

- Ask the students to each think of one word that describes Gideon's response to God when he was called and write them on the large writing surface. (Answers should include: afraid; surprised; hiding.) Have the students choose one word and write it in the "Gideon's Response" box on their pages.
- Ask the students to each think of one word that describes how God helped Gideon and write them on the large writing surface. (Answers should include: encouraged him; believed in him; helped him choose an army.) Have the students choose one word and write it in the "God's Help" box on their pages.

Sharing with Others

Ask the students if they have ever felt weak or unimportant. Encourage them that God helped Gideon to be a great leader even though he felt weak. Ask the students to each name one person that they will tell the story of Gideon to this week. Give each student a special sticker or mark on their badges before they leave. Close with a prayer for God to help the students trust God and share their faith this week.

Teacher Tips

- Do not force a student to share. Encourage all attempts to participate in this activity. Do not withhold a sticker from a student who does not name someone. Tell them that you have faith that they will do their best.

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A

F

T

Gideon

Gideon and the Judges

The students will make a craft that will help them to review today's Bible Story about Gideon.

Materials

For each student:

- 1 piece of construction paper, 9" x 12"
- 1 piece of poster board, 5" x 5"
- markers
- glue stick
- scissors
- stickers, glitter or other ornamental material (optional)
- Red Badge from Preclass

For the teacher:

- invisible tape
- scissors
- special stickers for each student's Red Badge

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

NOTE: Reproducing Page C onto a heavy card stock will eliminate the need for poster board.

Preparation

1. Prepare the construction paper for each student: Placing paper lengthwise, fold up three inches from bottom and tape the edges. See Figure A. Then fold the paper in half, as shown in Figure B. These will be the sleeve covers for the students' "CD" crafts.
2. Prepare the poster board by cutting out a five inch circle for each student. (Economize poster board by tracing all of the CD circles onto a large sheet of poster board and cutting them out.)
3. Make a sample craft to show the students.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In today's Bible Story, you learn about a man named Gideon. Gideon lived at a time when God's people had turned away from God. God allowed another nation, the Midianites, to rule over God's people, Israel. The Midianites treated God's people very badly. After seven years, the Israelites cried out to God to deliver them. God chose Gideon to lead them in a great battle against the Midianites. At first, Gideon*

did not think that he could lead the people to victory, but God helped and encouraged Gideon, and made him into a great leader. Gideon is in the book of Judges because he became a great and powerful leader for God's people. Show the students your sample craft. In your craft today, you will make a "CD" that contains six song titles. Each song title comes from an important point in today's Bible Story. Next to each song title, you will find the Bible reference from Judges on which the song title is based.

2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page C, markers and scissors. Have the students color their CDs and cover pages and cut them out.
3. Distribute the poster board circles that you prepared and glue sticks. Have the students glue their CDs onto the poster board circles, and glue their cover pages onto the fronts of their CD sleeve covers, as shown in Figure C.
4. Have the students place their CDs inside their sleeve covers, as shown in Figure D. Make sure they write their names on their CDs and sleeve covers.

Conclusion

Tell the students that to earn a special sticker for their Red Badges, they will pretend to be the group called "Gideon and the Judges." Choose one student to be Gideon and the rest to be the group. Have the students all sing or say the song titles listed on the CD. Place a sticker on each of the students' badges before they leave. Close with a prayer thanking God for Gideon's example of faith and trust in God.

Teacher Tips

- Think of additional ways to decorate the CD sleeve covers using glitter or other materials.



3rd and 4th Grades

Gideon

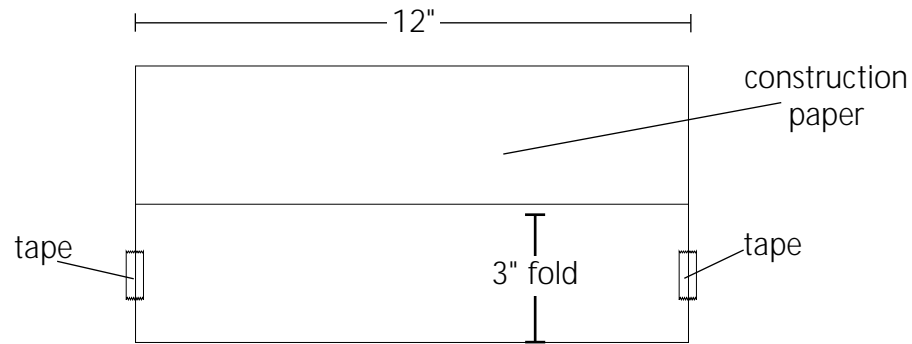


Figure A

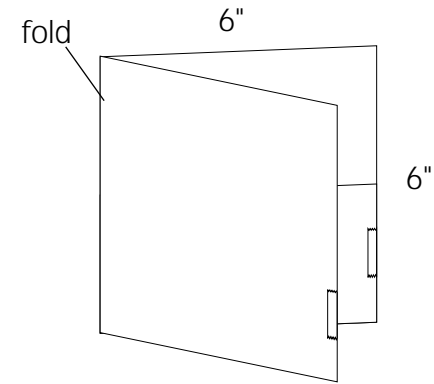


Figure B

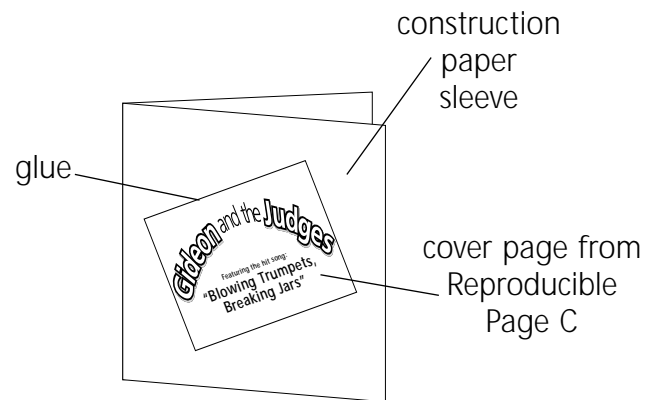


Figure C

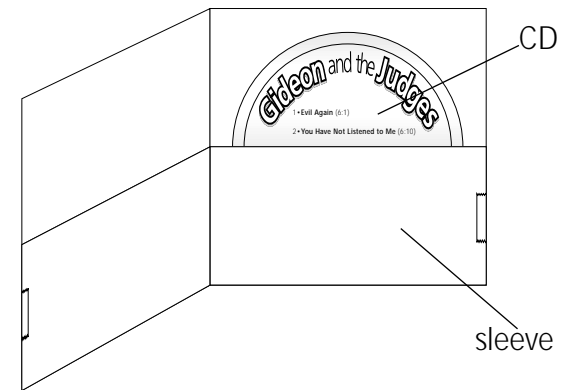


Figure D

Gideon

No Fear

The students will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse through role play and repetition.

Scripture Memory Verse

The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.

What can man do to me?

The LORD is with me; he is my helper.

I will look in triumph on my enemies.

Psalms 118:6-7

Materials

For each student:

- the Red Badge from Preclass

For the teacher:

- 8 index cards
- red marker
- black marker
- special stickers for each student's Red Badge

Preparation

1. On four of the index cards, write one of the following words in red: sing; whisper; slow; fast.
2. On the other four index cards, write one of the following phrases in black: standing up; on your knees; standing on one foot; hands on your head.
3. Practice leading this activity at home.
4. Learn the Scripture Memory Verse by heart.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In today's Bible Story, you learn about Gideon. Gideon lived at a time when God's people, Israel, had turned away from God. God allowed another nation, the Midianites, to rule over Israel. The Midianites treated God's people very badly. After seven years, the Israelites cried out to God to deliver them. God chose Gideon to lead them in a great battle against the Midianites. At first, Gideon did not think that he could lead the people to victory, but God helped and encouraged Gideon, and made him into a great leader. Today's Scripture Memory Verse comes from the Old Testament book of*

Psalms. It is a great verse about God's power and protection. This verse describes the way that God helped Gideon.

2. Show the students the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Read it to them twice while they listen. Ask them to read it together with you aloud two more times. Ask the girls to read it together, then the boys. Ask the students with blue eyes to read it together, then the students with brown or hazel eyes. Ask each student to read it individually.
3. Take out the eight index cards and mix them up. Read each card and say the verse together as a group following the directions on the cards.
4. Distribute the index cards to each of the students. Have a student with a red card find a partner with a black card. Have each pair stand up in front of the group and say the verse according to the directions written on their cards. For example, if their cards say: "whisper" and "standing up," the students will both stand up and whisper the Scripture Memory Verse from memory. Continue until all the students have had a turn.

Conclusion: From the Heart

Tell the students to think about Gideon and how he felt when God called him. As a final exercise, have the students each stand up and say the verse the way that they think Gideon would have said it—from the heart! Place a special sticker on each student's Red Badge.

Encourage them that they showed obedience to do this activity, even though at times it may have seemed silly or unfamiliar. Explain that Gideon did not feel sure of himself when God called him, but he still obeyed and was blessed. Close with a prayer thanking God for his great protection and power.

Teacher Tips

- Think of additional fun and different ways that the students could say this verse.
- If you have more than eight students, make enough cards for each student to have one.

The LORD is with me; I will
not be afraid.

What can man do to me?
The LORD is with me; he is
my helper.

I will look in triumph on
my enemies.

Psalm 118:6-7

Lesson Objectives

- The students will describe Gideon's response to God.
- The students will describe one way that God helped Gideon.
- The students will identify a difficult situation in their lives that God can help them overcome.

Lesson Text

Judges 6-7

Scripture Memory Verse

The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?
The LORD is with me; he is my helper.
I will look in triumph on my enemies.

*Psalm 118:6-7***Lesson Plan**

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Tell It Again

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Mission: Possible

Game: Hanging with Gideon

Bible Skills: MIB—Men in the Bible

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

Tell It Again

The students will review this week's Bible Story of Gideon with a fun worksheet.

Materials*For each student:*

- pencil
- crayons

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page D.

Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Explain that they will review this week's Bible Story about Gideon by completing a fun worksheet. Encourage the students to work together with a partner and to use their Bibles.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page D, pencils and crayons. Encourage the students who did not hear the Bible Story to work with those who did.
3. Circulate among the students to answer questions and offer help.

Teacher Tips

- Review the story of Gideon in Judges 6-7 to offer help to the students who did not hear the Bible Story.

Mission: Possible

The students will review this week's Bible Story as they think about difficult situations in their lives that God can help them overcome.

Materials

For each student:

- 1 index card
- pencil

For the teacher:

- large writing surface

Preparation

1. On the top of the large writing surface, neatly print the word: IMPOSSIBLE.
2. Practice leading this activity at home.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Judges 6-7. *In the Bible Story this week, you learned about Gideon. The story of Gideon comes after Deborah in the book of Judges 6-7. At the time of Gideon, God's people had turned away from God and were doing evil again as they had done before. God allowed another nation of people called the Midianites to rule over God's people, Israel. The Midianites treated God's people very badly. After seven years, the Israelites cried out to God to deliver them. God chose Gideon to lead them in a great battle against the Midianites. At first, Gideon did not think that he could lead the people to victory. But God helped and encouraged Gideon, and made him into a great leader. What Gideon thought would be impossible to do, God made possible and then did even more! Gideon is a great example of someone who showed faith and trust in God. He obeyed even when he did not believe he could.*

Life Application

Direct the students to the large writing surface. Ask the students if they can remember why Gideon did not believe that he could save God's people. Write their answers under the word IMPOSSIBLE. (Answers should include: his family was weak, he was the least important person in his family.)

Gideon did not believe that God could use him because of who he was and who his family was. Sometimes we do not believe that God can use us because of who we are or because of something about our families. God showed Gideon that it did not matter because God had a plan for Gideon. And today it does not matter where you come from because God has a plan for you!

Ask the students to each say one thing that they think would be impossible for them to do. (speak in front of a large crowd; make really good grades; be a great athlete; play an instrument) Write their responses on the large writing surface and each student's name beside their response. Put an "x" through the "IM" of IMPOSSIBLE so that the word POSSIBLE appears. To each student, say: *God helped Gideon change from being afraid to being fearless for God! God can help you change from thinking that _____ is impossible to being a great _____ for God!* For example: *God helped Gideon change from being afraid to being fearless for God! God can help you change from thinking that learning the Bible is impossible to being a great Bible student for God!*

Conclusion

Ask the students how it makes them feel to know that God is powerful and can help them to become something they thought was impossible. Read Luke 1:37 and encourage the students to pray and ask God to help them overcome their fears and weaknesses. Close with a prayer and allow each student to pray to God for help in overcoming one specific area in their life.

Teacher Tips

- Some students may be unable or unwilling to be serious about their weaknesses and fears. Do not focus on negative behavior, but rather encourage the students who can respond thoughtfully to your questions.



Hanging with Gideon

The students will review this week's lesson as they think of words from the Bible Story through the game of hangman.

Materials

For the teacher:

- large writing surface

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. On the large writing surface, prepare a hangman "gallows" as shown on your copy of Reproducible Page E, or make multiple copies to use one for each word.
2. Practice playing this game at home, using words and phrases on the back of this Lesson Card.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In our Bible Story this week we learned that Gideon was a man who changed from being afraid to being a great leader for God's people. God believed in Gideon and God helped and encouraged Gideon. Gideon trusted and obeyed God. Gideon led an army of three hundred men against the enemy army that was so big they could not be counted! God made Gideon victorious. He won the battle and the enemy was defeated.*
2. Tell the students that today they will play hangman using words and phrases from the story of Gideon. To earn extra points, they can use the word or phrase in a sentence that tells about Gideon.



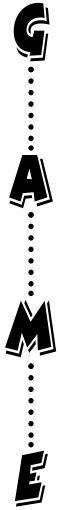
3. Divide the students into two teams. Choose a team to go first. Prepare the spaces below the hangman gallows for the first word. Have the first team guess a letter. If the letter is in the word or phrase, write it as many times as it appears. If it is not in the word or phrase, write the letter beneath the spaces and draw the head of the hangman. Then let the next team take a turn.
4. Play continues until a team is ready to guess the word or phrase. If they guess correctly, they receive two points. Keep score on the large writing surface. If they guess incorrectly, let the other team guess. If the teams do not guess the word or phrase before the hangman has been drawn, then neither team receives points for that round. (Parts of a hangman to draw: head, body, two legs, two arms, two hands and two feet.)
5. A team may receive an extra point for using the word or phrase correctly in a sentence about the Bible Story. For example: if the phrase is "evil again" they could say: "God's people did evil again in the eyes of the Lord."
6. To begin the next round, prepare a new gallows and new spaces for the letters of the next word or phrase.
7. Play continues until all the words have been played. The team with the most points at the end wins.

Conclusion

Ask the students to each say one way that God helped Gideon. Remind the students that God can help them too. Tell them that God has great power to help them in the most difficult situations they will ever face. Close with a prayer thanking God for his love and his power.

Teacher Tips

- If you are not familiar with the game of hangman, ask someone who knows it to show you.



Hanging with Gideon

Here are examples of ways that the students might use these words in a sentence about the Bible Story:

- Mighty Warrior - The angel called Gideon a mighty warrior.
- Evil Again - The Israelites did evil again in the eyes of the Lord.
- Hiding and Afraid - Gideon was hiding from the Midianites and afraid they would take his supplies.
- Seven Years - God allowed the Midianites to rule over Israel for seven years.
- Gideon - God chose Gideon to lead his people.
- Helped and Encouraged - God helped Gideon to be successful and encouraged him with a great victory.
- Trust and Obey - Gideon trusted and obeyed God.
- Powerful Plans - God had powerful plans for Gideon.
- Blowing Trumpet - Gideon led the army by blowing a trumpet.
- Breaking Jars - The men in the army all broke their jars as they ran into battle.
- Three Hundred - Gideon had three hundred men in his army.
- Great Victory - God gave Gideon a great victory.

Mighty Warrior

Evil Again

Hiding and Afraid

Seven Years

Gideon

Helped and Encouraged

Trust and Obey

Powerful Plans

Blowing Trumpets

Breaking Jars

Three Hundred

Great Victory



3rd and 4th Grades

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MIB—Men in the Bible

The students will review the characters from current and previous Bible lessons through this fun riddle activity.

Materials

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- timer or watch with a second hand

Preparation

Practice leading this activity at home.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week we learned about a great man of God named Gideon. We have learned about great men and women who served God and his people. Today, we are going to review your knowledge of some of these men and women that we have studied so far.*
2. Divide the students into two teams. Explain that you will read them riddles describing different Bible characters they have been studying. Each one is worth different points, beginning with ten and going up to a hundred points. If a team does not answer with the correct Bible character within thirty seconds, then the opposing team has ten seconds to answer. If neither team answers correctly, you will give the answer. Keep score on the large writing surface.
3. Choose a student on the first team to go first. Read a ten-point riddle located on the back of this Lesson Card. The student may discuss the answer with his teammates. If he answers correctly within thirty seconds, the team receives ten points. However if the student does not, the question is passed to the other team who have ten additional seconds to answer.

Conclusion

Ask each student to name one of their favorite characters studied so far in the Bible and say why. Close with a prayer thanking God for the Bible and for giving us great men and women of faith like Gideon.

Teacher Tips

- Think of additional and more challenging ways to alternate the questions, e.g. without help from other team members, or within a shorter time period.
- Be sensitive to new or visiting students who may be unfamiliar with the information and uncomfortable having questions directed to them.

ABRAHAM
ADAM ESAU JOSHUA
MOSES JOSEPH
RAHAB EYE NOAH
DEBORAH JACOB
PHARAOH GIDEON

B
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MIB—Men in the Bible
Review Riddles

For 10 points:

God made him the keeper
of a lovely Creation.
His rib was the scene
of the first "operation."
(Adam)

Animals came
in 2s and 7s
and a rainbow hung
across the heavens.
(Noah)

No guns, but people
marching around,
and for this man God brought
the walls of Jericho down.
(Joshua)

She was called woman,
taken from his side.
Deceived by a serpent,
from God she did hide.
(Eve)

For 20 Points

He was a twin,
firstborn of two.
He sold his birthright,
for a bowl of stew.
(Esau)

Sold by his brothers,
loved by his dad,
enslaved by a king,
he returned good for bad.
(Joseph)

Moses cried, "Let my
people go!"
This king of Egypt simply
said "No."
It took 10 plagues for him
to see,
he needed to set the
Israelites free.
(Pharaoh)

Mighty warrior? Not me.
Yes you! You'll see.
And that is what
he came to be.
(Gideon)

For 50 Points:

God said "Go!"
He said "No."
But when his life was done
God's friend he had become.
(Moses)

He lay his head
Upon the ground,
and saw angels going
Up and down.
(Jacob)

When God promised children
he was old and had none.
Then later God told him
to sacrifice his son.
(Abraham)

For 100 Points:

She hid two spies
and gave them hope.
They later saved her
with the sign of a rope.
(Rahab)

No "Women's Lib" needed,
a prophetess, she
was a very wise judge
and led a song of victory!
(Deborah)

Core/Preclass

1 copy for each student (Optional - red paper)



front



back

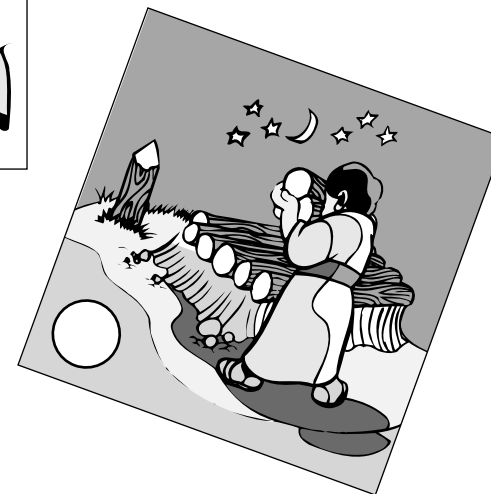
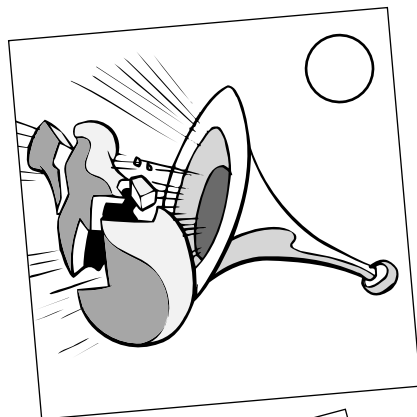
Core/Bible Story

1 copy for each student

A Mighty Warrior

Judges
Lesson 2

Gideon's Response



God's Help!

GENERATION next

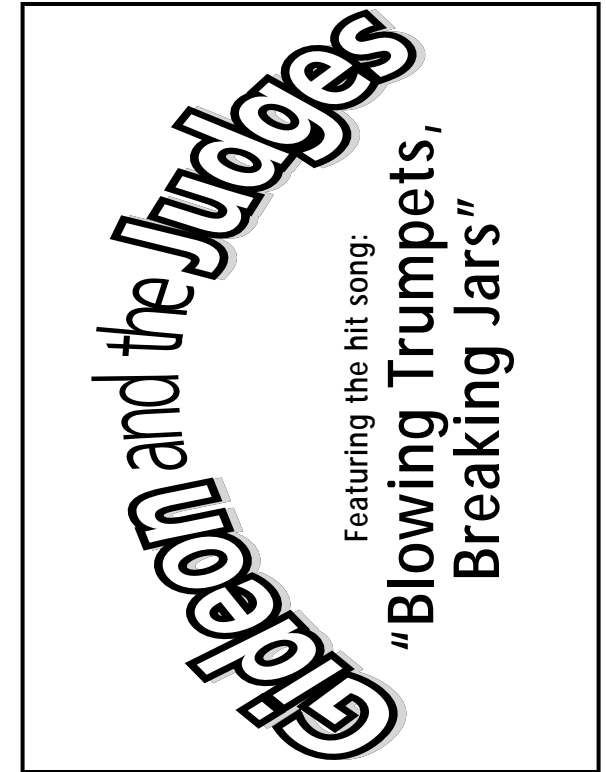
3rd and 4th Grades

Core/Craft

1 copy for each student (Optional - heavy paper)



CD



cover page

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3rd and 4th Grades

Tell It Again

1. Look up Judges 6:1. Write it out here:

God's people did evil again! They turned their backs on God again! So God allowed his people be treated badly by their enemies for seven years.

2. Look up Judges 6:10. Write it out here:

God spoke through the prophet to remind his people of all the ways that he had rescued and helped them. God wanted them to remember how much he had done for them. But, they had not listened to him.

3. Look up Judges 6:12. Write it here:

When God called him, Gideon did not feel like a mighty warrior. He told the angel that he and his family were not very powerful. He did not know why God was calling him a "mighty warrior."

4. Put the following titles in the order in which they belong in the story of Gideon.

- ___ The Lord Is with You, Mighty Warrior! (Judges 6:12)
- ___ Evil Again (Judges 6:1)
- ___ You Have Not Listened to Me (Judges 6:10)
- ___ A Sword for the Lord and for Gideon (Judges 7:20)
- ___ Who, Me? (Judges 6:15)
- ___ Blowing Trumpets and Breaking Jars (Judges 7:19)

My Story of Gideon

In your own words or pictures, tell the story of Gideon from Judges 6-7 in the space below:
(Use the titles listed above for ideas.)

Hanging with Gideon

