

JUDGES

"Gideon"

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- The story of Deborah and Barak
- The story of Gideon
- The story of Samson and Delilah
- The story of Ruth

Series Theme Verse: "The Lord answered, 'I will be with you.'" –Judges 6:16

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God is the one who rescues us, and that God used Judges to rescue the people of God.

Lesson Passage: Judges 7:1-8, 16-22

Materials Needed: Bibles, Series Theme Verse on poster, play dough, Lego men

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points:

- Who was the judge that rescued the Israelites last week? (Deborah, she went with Barak to defeat Sisera and the Canaanite army)
- Who rescued the Israelites from the Midianites today? Who was the judge? (Gideon)
- Gideon gathered an army of Israelites to fight the Midianites, but what did God tell him about his army? (You have too many men vs2)
- If I was going to battle, then I would want as many men as possible to fight with me, wouldn't you? But the Lord said he didn't want the Israelites to be able to brag and say look what we did because we had so many strong men. The Lord wanted them to rely on the Lord's strength to help them beat the Midianites.
- Since God said there were too many men, 22,000 of the men left and went home. How many were left? (10,000 vs3)
- Lots and lots of men went home. What did God say next? (Still too many men vs4)
- God told Gideon to take the men down to the water. Gideon had to sort the men into two groups. How did he sort them? (Those who bent down to drink straight out of the water, and those who used their hands and lapped it up like a dog.)
- Act out how the men drank the water.
- How many men lapped it like a dog? (300 vs6)
- These are the men that Gideon would take with him into battle. The rest of the men went home.

- Next Gideon divided the 300 men into how many groups? (3 vs16)
- What did the men take with them? (trumpets and jars with torches inside vs16)
- Next the three groups surrounded the camp of the Midianites, and what did they do? (played the trumpet and smashed the jars vs20)
- What did they shout? (For the Lord and for Gideon vs18 or A sword for the Lord and for Gideon vs20)
- Decide which one and yell it together.
- How did the Midianites react? (They were scared, they ran away, they turned on each other vs21-22)
- With only 300 men Gideon defeated the Midianites and the people were saved! God helped Gideon and rescued the Israelites from their enemies.

The Story Retold:

- Have each student make two men out of play dough.
- The teacher needs to set out the same number of army men or Lego men as the kids. For example: If there are 5 children in class, then they will make a total of 10 men. The teacher will need 10 men.
- You will use the kids play dough men and the teacher's men to recreate/retell the story of Gideon.
- The play dough men are the Israelites – good guys, God's people. The Lego men are the Midianites – bad guys, don't worship the one true God.
- The numbers are equal. It's an even match, but God told Gideon in our story that he had too many men. Some had to go home. So take away one play dough man from each kid. (half of the men are now gone)
- Now the Israelites have a smaller number compared to the Midianites, but God said that was still too many.
- Remember how God had Gideon sort the men into two groups? Have the kids pretend to have their play dough men drink water. Keep only three play dough men and say they lapped it up like a dog. Take away the rest of the play dough men.
- Now look again, the Israelites have a very small number compared to the Midianites.
- It says in the Bible, that the Midianites were many – “It was impossible to count the men and their camels.” Judges 6:5
- How are the Israelites able to beat so many Midianites? (With God's help! They had God on their side who helped rescue them from their enemies.)
- So even though Gideon had a small army, he was able to win because God was with him.
- How do we know God is with us?

The Story and Me:

- Read the memory verse to the students.
- Explain to students that the memory verse tells us what God told Gideon before our story today.
- Gideon needed reminding that God would be with him, just like we need that reminder today.

- Now have the group say the memory verse together.
- Have the kids brainstorm things that they do during the day or during the week. (ex: go to school, sleep, eat, play with friends, go to church, go with mom to the grocery store, etc.)
- Pick one of the answers and say it before the group and have the kids respond with the verse. (ex. Teacher says, “On Monday, I go to school.” The kids respond, “The Lord answered, ‘I will be with you.’”)
- You can also have one kid say something he/she will do this week and have the rest of the class respond with the verse.
- Hopefully, you’ll do this many times that the verse is memorized, but also reminds the kids that whatever they are doing, wherever they go that the Lord is with them.