

June 14, 2020 PreK

Bible Passage: Gideon / Judges 6–8

Story Point: God gave Gideon victory.

Key Passage/Memory Verse: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us.” 1 John 1:9a

Big Picture Question: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Christ Connection: *The people of Israel needed help. They asked God to help them. God used Gideon to help the people, and God fought for them. We need help too. We need God to save us from sin. We cannot save ourselves. God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us.*

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* **BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

Judges 6 starts out in a familiar way: “The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.” The period of Judges was not a good time for the Israelites. Their cycle of sin, bondage, deliverance, and peace clearly showed the law alone could not save them from sin.

The Israelites were oppressed by the Midianites, and they cried out to God for help. God chose a man to save them, and his name was Gideon. Gideon was an unlikely leader, and he knew this. Gideon said, “Please, Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Look, my family is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s family” (Judg. 6:15).

God doesn't need the biggest and the best to accomplish His plan. In fact, He often uses the weakest and least of people to fulfill His plans because that is what gives Him the most glory. God had a plan to empower Gideon in his weakness: “But I will be with you,” He said. (Judg. 6:16)

Gideon and an army of men assembled. God told Gideon he had too many men. God didn't want the men to think they had the power to defeat the Midianites themselves. When the army was reduced to just 300 men, they prepared for battle. (See Judg. 7:1-7.)

The men ran toward the Midianites' camp, blowing their trumpets and shouting. God turned the swords of the Midianites against each other. They ran away, but Gideon and his army chased after them and killed them.

God was with the Israelites when they went to battle. The Israelites did not win the battle themselves; God fought for them. As you teach preschoolers this week, point out that God used Gideon in the victory. Gideon alone was not enough to save the Israelites. Only God could win the battle. In the same way, we are unable to save ourselves from sin. Jesus came to save us from our sin because He is enough. Only God, through Christ, can save us.

*** BIBLE STORY:**

Turn to Judges 6-8 with the help of your preschooler.

Say • Our Bible story is in the Book of Judges. The stories in our Bible are true. The judges we are learning about really lived. Today, we will learn about another judge.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Gideon *Judges 6–8*

The Israelites were not very good at **doing what God told them to do**. **God let their enemies from Midian rule over them** for seven years. The Midianites were mean. They took Israel's food and animals. **The Israelites** remembered how good life was when they loved and obeyed God. They **cried out to God, "Save us!"**

The angel of the Lord came and sat under an oak tree. The angel **appeared to Gideon and said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!"**

Gideon was confused. "Please, my lord," Gideon said, "if the Lord is with us, why have all these bad things happened?"

The Lord said, **"You will save the Israelites from the power of Midian. I am sending you, Gideon!"**

Gideon was afraid. His family was the weakest family in his tribe, and he was the youngest son in the family. But God said, "I will be with you."

When it was time to go to battle, Gideon blew a ram's horn. Men lined up behind him, ready to fight. Gideon wanted a sign from God. "I will put fleece on the ground. If the fleece

is wet with dew, but the ground is dry, I will believe that You will help me save Israel.” That is exactly what happened. Again, Gideon asked for a sign. This time, the fleece was dry and the ground was wet.

God told Gideon that he had too many men. He let anyone who was afraid to go to battle go home. Most of the people left. “There are still too many,” God said. God made a test for the people. All of them went to the river to drink the water. Anyone who knelt to drink water was sent home, but whoever lapped the water with his hand to his mouth stayed. Three hundred men remained.

That night, the army carried torches, blew their trumpets, and shattered the pitchers that were in their hands. The men ran toward the Midianite camp, shouting. Everyone in the Midianite army ran away.

The Israelites said to Gideon, “You saved us! Be our king.”

Gideon said. “God saved you. He will be your King.” When Gideon died, the Israelites again disobeyed God. They forgot what God had done for them.

***Christ Connection:* The people of Israel needed help. They asked God to help them. God used Gideon to help the people, and God fought for them. We need help too. We need God to save us from sin. We cannot save ourselves. God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us.**

SAY • Once again, God’s people forgot about Him, and God let their enemies rule over them. When the people cried out for help, God made Gideon Israel’s next judge. **God gave Gideon victory!** God used a weak man like Gideon and a small army to show that He was the One fighting for His people. We need help too. We cannot save ourselves from sin, so God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us.

KEY PASSAGE

Key Passage: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us.” 1 John 1:9a

SAY • God used Gideon to help His people. We need help too. We need God to save us from sin. Our key passage tells us that if we confess our sins, God will forgive them. God forgives us because of Jesus.

*** PRAYER**

*** ACTIVITIES:**

ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE:

Invite preschoolers to look at the groups of items. Guide them to circle the group with fewer. **Say** • Good job deciding which is less. What do you think is better for an army: more men or less men? In our Bible story today, God told a man named Gideon that he had too many men in his army. Why would God say that? God used a small army to show that He was the One fighting for His people. We need help too. We cannot save ourselves from sin, so God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us.

MAKE TRUMPETS

Give your preschooler a sheet of paper. Use markers to decorate the paper. Consider using stickers if available. When a child finishes decorating, roll her paper so that one end is slightly smaller than the other end. Tape the paper in place. Retell the Bible story and encourage children to blow their trumpets at the appropriate time.

Say • Gideon did not think he could help the people of Israel, but God promised to be with Gideon. Gideon obeyed God, and God fought for the Israelites. When the Israelite army blew their trumpets, everyone in the Midianite army ran away. **God gave Gideon victory!**

PLAY WITH WATER

Set out two plastic tubs. Place a washcloth in each bin. Give your preschooler a spray bottle of water. In one tub, lead your preschooler to try to spray water on the cloth without getting the tub wet. In the other tub, lead your preschooler to try to spray water on the tub without getting the cloth wet. Retell the part of the Bible story about the fleece.

Say • God helped Gideon believe He would use Gideon to rescue His people. God wants us to know that He will help us, too! He knows that we choose to sin and we cannot save ourselves. God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and save us. Remember our big picture question? ***What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.***

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- What did the angel of the Lord call Gideon? (*mighty warrior*)
- Why was Gideon afraid? (*His family was the weakest in his tribe, and he was the youngest son in the family.*)
- Why did Gideon send many men home? (*God said he had too many.*)
- Who made the Midianites run away? (*God*)
- What did Gideon tell the Israelites when they wanted make him king? (*God saved you. He will be your king.*)
- ***What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.***