

Lesson Three: God Can Do Big Things

(Preschool/Elementary)

Lesson Theme:

God wants me to depend upon Him! He always wants me to look to Him for help.

Theme Verse:

“I am the Lord your God. I am holding your hand, so don’t be afraid. I am here to help you.” Isaiah 41:13 CEV

* If you have extra time, have the students come up with motions for the theme verse from today.

Bible Story – Gideon from the Book of Judges

Ice-Breaker Activities

ACTIVITY #1: WHO DO I DEPEND ON?

- The goal of this activity is to get your students to think about who they depend on and point them to realize how they depend on God!
- As your students enter the room, direct them to the table area.

What You Need:

- Copies of the “Who Helps Me?” Coloring Page from the **Lesson 3 – Activity Sheets Packet**.
- Crayons, colored pencils or markers

What To Do:

- Give each student a copy of the coloring page.
- Encourage them to draw someone who helps them in the bottom box on the page.
- After they have drawn someone, encourage them to color the whole page.
- After a few minutes, ask each student to share who is in their drawing.
- Have a drawing ready to show a picture of God. Describe how God helps you and you depend on Him.

ACTIVITY #2: ACTIVE LISTENING ACTIVITY

- This activity will be used during the Bible story-telling time.
- The goal of this activity is to give the students 'key words' to listen for so they know when to act out that part of the story. This will encourage them to be more attentive to the overall story.

What You Need:

- Some sort of "sign" to designate each of the main characters.
- Assign the following characters and props to various students.
 - God
 - Gideon
 - Group of Israelites
 - Group of Midianites

What To Do:

- As you share the Bible Story Paraphrase, each character should stand when the story mentions them.

Bible Story – God Can Do Big Things Through Weak People—Gideon

Lesson One Review

In our class yesterday, we studied about Ehud and how God used the uniqueness of him being left-handed to deliver the Israelites from the Moabites. In much the same way, God wants our unique characteristics to be used for Him!

We also learned about the “Cycle of Sin” in our classes yesterday. **[Use the “Cycle of Sin Wheel” as you describe this process.]** This cycle always begins with **SIN**—what the Bible refers to as doing “what was evil in the sight of the LORD.” This causes **GOD’S ANGER** to be poured out upon His people and then He allows **PUNISHMENT** to occur through another nation of people. This is a very difficult time for the Israelites, so they cry out to God and **REPENT** of their sins. God hears their cry and sends someone to **RESCUE** them. This person is called a Judge! After the judge delivers the people of Israel through the power of God, they experience **PEACE** until the death of that judge—at which time, they would start again to do “what was evil in the sight of the LORD.” This is what we call the “**Cycle of Sin.**”

Does anyone remember the name of the first two judges of Israel?

Othniel and Ehud

[If using the “Active Listening Activity,” start it now!]

Judges 7-8 (Paraphrase)

Today, we are studying about the fifth judge of Israel. His name was **Gideon (+)**. Just as had happened before, after Deborah and Barak delivered the Israelites from Jabin, king of the Canaanites, they experienced a period of peace. But after Deborah died, the Israelites once again began

to sin and disappoint God. **God (+)** sent the Moabites to punish them. The Midianites ruled over Israel for 20 years. The Israelites cried out to God and He raised up a new judge—his name was **Gideon (+)**. Our story today is focused on a battle between two groups—**Gideon (+)** and the **Israelites (+)** against the Midianites—but this was not an ordinary battle because it was fought with unusual weapons and only a few soldiers.

One morning when **Gideon (+)** and the people had gathered together, **God (+)** told Gideon that there were too many people there to fight the **Midianites (+)**. **God (+)** wanted the people to know they won the battle because of Him, not because there were so many people willing to fight. So **God (+)** told **Gideon (+)** to let all the people go that were afraid. So, 22,000 **Israelites (+)** left, but there were still 10,000 soldier left in **Gideon's (+)** army. So **God (+)** said:

“That is still too many. Take them to the water for a test. Separate the ones that cup their hands and lap the water like a dog from the ones who get on their knees to get a drink.”

God (+) told **Gideon (+)** to keep the soldiers that cupped their hands to drink and send home all the rest. Now, there were only 300 men, but **God (+)** said that they did not need to worry because He would be with them to beat the **Midianites (+)**. **God (+)** instructed **Gideon (+)** to take his servant and go down into the valley where the **Midianites** were camped.

There were so many people in the **Midianite (+)**camp! The Bible describes them like this:

“The camp was huge. [They] ... covered the valley like a swarm of locusts. And it would be easier to count the grains of sand on a beach than to count their camels.”

Gideon (+) divided the 300 **Israelite (+)** men into 3 groups. He gave each of them a trumpet, and empty pitcher with a torch inside. **Gideon (+)** told them to watch him and copy what he does. He told them, “When I blow the trumpet, then you will blow yours and say, “***The sword of the Lord and of Gideon (+).***”

Gideon (+) had 100 **Israelite (+)** men with him and when they got to the camp about midnight, the **Israelites (+)** blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers. Then the other groups of men did the same thing! They held the torches in the left hand and trumpets in their right hand.

The **Midianite (+)** soldiers woke up and cried out! Thinking that the **Israelites (+)** were attacking, in all of the confusion, the **Midianites (+)** killed each other while the **Israelites (+)** stood around their camp—holding their torches—and watched! **Gideon (+)** sent messengers to tell the other tribes to seize the **Midianites (+)** that are hiding. They found them everywhere! They even captured 2 princes! The **Israelites (+)** won the day because they depended on **God (+)**.

Bible Story Review

When Gideon started putting together the army to take on the Midianites, how many soldiers did he have the first time he counted?
32,000 men

When Gideon went to battle against the Midianites, how many soldiers did fight with? Only 300 men!

What unusual weapons did Gideon want the Israelites to use in their battle? Trumpets, pitchers, and torches

Why did God want the Israelites to fight with only 300 soldiers?

God wanted the Israelites to depend on Him and realize that He was the one who gave them the victory.

Say today's theme verse again with the motions you created:

"I am the Lord your God. I am holding your hand, so don't be afraid.
I am here to help you." Isaiah 41:13 CEV

Activities & Crafts

WORD SEARCH & COLORING SHEETS:

- Download the **Lesson 3 – Activity Sheets Packet** for coloring sheets and other activities for your students.

CRAFT: GIDEON'S WEAPONRY—TORCH & TRUMPET

GLOWING TEA LIGHT TORCH

What You Need: (Supply list is good for one torch.)

- Yellow & Orange Tissue Paper (four 5" squares)
- Toilet paper or paper towel tube (painted)
- Flameless LED Tea Light Candles
(24 pack available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))
- Orange cupcake liners



What To Do:

- First paint the toilet paper tube brown or black and let it dry. Then glue the cupcake liner onto the top of the tube. You may need to prepare these in advance.

- Cut the yellow and orange tissue paper into approximately 5" squares – you don't need to be exact. You can cut one corner of the tissue paper off and line that edge up with the bottom of the tea light. That way it won't hang over the bottom of the tea light.
- Apply a little glue to the edges of the tea light and layer the tissue paper around the sides. Start and layer four yellow pieces of tissue paper then reapplied the glue and layered four orange pieces of tissue paper. Let dry.
- Then set the tea light into the top of the cup. This way it is easy to take the tea light in and out of the torch making it easy to turn it off and on...saves on batteries!

THEME VERSE TRUMPET

What You Need: (Supply list is good for one torch.)

- “Theme Verse Trumpet” Worksheet printed on Yellow Paper
- Stapler or Tape
- Twine/Yarn

What To Do:

- Prepare enough copies of the “Theme Verse Trumpet” for each student to have one of their own.
- Have each student decorate their trumpet in whatever way they want.
- Roll the paper and create a tube while flaring out one end. Secure with a staple and attach the string with the same staple.
- Move to the other end and attach the string with another staple as well. Be sure to flare out one of the ends to make it look similar to a megaphone.

