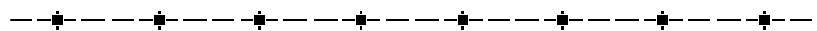


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

**A Warrior Serves
God's Children**

Gideon

Judges 6-9

**A Warrior Serves
God's Children**
Judges 6:1-10

Memory Verse:

Their weakness was turned to strength.
They became powerful in battle.
They beat back armies from other countries.
Hebrews 11:34 (NirV)

Lesson Goals:

1. Learn that Gideon was from the tribe of Manasseh.
2. Learn that the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon.
3. Recognize that Gideon was unsure.
4. Understand that God used Gideon to deliver Israel.

Last week we learned about the faith of Deborah. Deborah was a prophetess. She gave Barak God's message to go to war. God wanted to deliver Israel from Jabin's oppression. God delivered Israel because of their obedience.

Read the Bible

READ: Judges 6:1-10 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

Israel had sinned against God. Because they had sinned against God by worshipping idols, God allowed the Midianites to treat them badly. The Midianites took Israel's crops and their animals. There were so many of them that the Israelites had to hide in caves in the mountains. They became very poor. They cried out to God. God sent a prophet who told them that the reason they were suffering was because they had sinned against God. (Judges 6:1-10)

Then something extraordinary happened. "The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon. He said, "Mighty warrior, the Lord is with you." (Judges 6:11 NirV) Gideon asked why God had allowed all the bad things to happen to them. Gideon **didn't understand** how God delivered them from Egypt and performed mighty miracles only to desert them. He told the angel of the Lord that God had abandoned them and allowed Midian to mistreat them. (Judges 6:13)

But the angel of the Lord didn't answer Gideon. Instead, he said to him, "You are strong. Go and save Israel from the power of Midian. I am sending you." (Judges 6:14 NirV) But Gideon **did not see** himself as someone who could do that. He **didn't see** his family as important. He was from the tribe of Manasseh. (Judges 6:15) Manasseh was the youngest son of Joseph. (Genesis 41:51)

The Lord answered, "I will be with you. So you will strike down the men of Midian all at one time." (Judges 6:16 NirV)

Gideon was unsure and asked the Lord to wait. God did what Gideon asked and waited until Gideon offered a sacrifice. (Judges 6:17-24) Later, God allowed His Spirit to come upon Gideon. Gideon got to work gathering the men of Israel. Gideon blew his trumpet and told the men of Israel to follow him. The men were from Abiezer, Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali. Gideon told them to fight. (Judges 6:24-35) When Gideon called the men to fight, he also called on God. He reminded God that He had promised to be with him. (Judges 6:36)

Gideon —Bible Facts

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Gideon was from Manasseh. | 2. The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon. |
| 3. The angel of the Lord told Gideon to fight. | |
| 4. Gideon asked the angel of the Lord to wait until he offered sacrifice. | 5. God reassured Gideon. |

Because **Gideon was still unsure**, he asked for a special sign from God, twice. First he asked that dew fall on a piece of wool one morning, then he asked that the dew not fall on the piece of wool the next morning. God allowed it to happen just that way. (Judges 6:36-40)

There were 22,000 men ready to fight. God spoke to Gideon. He told Gideon that He would hand Midian over to him. But God said that there were too many men and they would say that they won on their own strength. So God told Gideon to send away those who were afraid. When Gideon did that, 10,000 men were left. (Judges 7:1-3)

God said that there were still too many men. So God told Gideon to send the men to drink water. God said He would tell Gideon which ones should go. When the men drank the water, God chose the men who lapped the water like dogs to fight. They put the water in their hands and brought it to their mouths to drink. God said that He would save Israel with those 300 men. The rest who got on their knees to drink water were sent home. Those 300 took the supplies and trumpets the others had left. (Judges 7:4-8)

Once again **God reassured Gideon**. God told Gideon to go to the Midianite camp with his servant and listen to what they were saying. When they went to the Midianite camp there were so many that they looked like locusts or the grains of sand. As they listened, they heard one man telling another about a dream he had. What they heard gave them courage. Gideon worshipped God. Gideon went back to their camp and told the men to get up and fight because God was going to give them victory. (Judges 7:8-15) God sent Jesus to help us in our weakness. The Bible says of Gideon and others, "Their weakness was turned to strength. They became powerful in battle." Hebrews 11:34 (NirV) Read the rest of the chapter to see how God delivered Israel.

Review questions

1. Who was Gideon? (Gideon was from the tribe of Manasseh.)
2. Who appeared to Gideon? (The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon.)
3. What did the angel of the Lord instruct Gideon to do? (The angel of the Lord instructed Gideon to fight Midian.)
4. What was Gideon's response? (Gideon asked the angel of the Lord to wait until he offered a sacrifice.)
5. How did God reassure Gideon? (God reassured Gideon by allowing the dew to fall where he asked and by allowing Gideon to hear about a dream.)

Do you know Jesus?

God sent Jesus to help us in our weakness. He knew we would not be able to overcome sin on our own. Jesus died for sins. He rose from the dead so that we could live with God eternally. If you will invite Him to be a part of your life and ask for God's forgiveness, He will forgive you. God will come to be a part of your life.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to help deal with our weakness.
3. Ask God to help you when you are unsure.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need help with their weakness.

Application

The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon. Gideon was from the tribe of Manasseh. God wanted Gideon to fight the enemies of Israel, Midian. But Gideon was unsure of himself and God. God had to speak to Gideon and reassure him several times. God was faithful in spite of Gideon's fear. God used Gideon to deliver Israel. God wants to use us. If we obey Him, God will use us for His purposes.

Planning for the next week:

Jephthah (A Father Makes a Foolish Vow) — Judges 11-12

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Judges 6:1-10 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Make trumpets. Let the children pretend to be the 300 men who blew their trumpets.)

God's people, the Israelites, sinned against God. God allowed their enemies to treat them badly. The Israelites cried out to God. God let them know that it was because of their sin that their enemies were treating them badly. (Judges 6:1-10)

But, because they cried out to God, God called Gideon to serve Him. God wanted Gideon to lead the Israelites in war against their enemy. Gideon did not think he was important. He said his family was not an important family. But God did not respond to that. (Judges 6:15)

God called Gideon a mighty warrior. God encouraged Gideon so that he could do what God needed him to do so that the enemies of the Israelites would leave them alone. (Judges 6:12-14)

When Gideon finally believed, he blew his trumpet and called for the men of Israel to come fight. Gideon had 22,000 men come to help him. God said that was too many. God told the ones who were afraid to go home. Then God said that the men who lapped water like a dog would fight. There were 300 against an army so large that they looked like the grains of sand or like locusts. The men blew their trumpets and their enemies began to fight each other. God gave them victory just as He had promised. (Judges 7:8-22)

God used Gideon even though he was afraid. God helped Gideon know that He was with him. God sent Jesus to help us when we are afraid.

Prayer Time

- 1. Take a moment to listen to God.**
- 2. Thank God for sending Jesus to help us when we are afraid.**
- 3. Pray for friends and family members to know that God is with them.**

Did you know? Preschoolers can be taught to trust God.

Consider this: Teach them a Bible verse that talks about trusting God. Ask the children if they remember the stories about people that trusted God. Create a color-coded memory game. Write information about several Bible characters on colored index cards. Number the cards. Read the cards and review the material. Mix up the cards and have the children put the same colored index cards together by number. Pick up a card and ask the children to identify the character. Example: Abraham believed God; he left his family, received a promise, etc. Talk about how they can trust God to be with them.

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Read Judges 7:9-22 aloud to the children. Provide a coloring page with lanterns and torches. Have them write or color a picture with the memory verse.

•**Test your memory** — Set up chairs for the children. Write numbers on a piece of construction paper and attach it to the chair. Have several chairs represent five thousand men (write 5,000 on the paper). Have several chairs represent 20, 25 or whatever is appropriate so that the total sum will be 22,000 men, but only 300 will remain. Tell the story and have 12,000 men leave, then have all but 300 leave.

Write scriptures on cards that tell how God reassured Gideon by speaking to him, by doing what Gideon asked that God do with the fleece, and by revealing the dream to Gideon. Have the children retell the story using the scriptures.

•**Taste activity** — Bring a large bowl. Pour water in the bowl. Have one person demonstrate how the 300 men lapped water by putting it in their hands and bringing it to their mouths. Provide a cool drink for the children.

•**Think about it** — Gideon was unsure about himself and about God. Read Judges 6-7. Focus on how often God spoke to Gideon and how often God had to reassure Gideon. Have the children talk about times they are afraid. Help them to see God is with them. Provide scripture to encourage them. Pray with them.

God made the enemies of Israel fight each other instead of fighting Israel. The Bible says that the numbers of the Midianites was so great that they looked like locusts. Talk about how God provides a way of escape when things seem impossible.

•**Touch activity** — Make jars and torches out of construction paper.

Watch the Veggie Tales movie “Gideon, Tuba Warrior.”

Bring pictures of items that Gideon’s army may have used to fight the Midianites. (Jars, torches, trumpets, spears)

•**Run and play** — The Midian army was afraid of the Israelites. When Gideon’s army of 300 blew the trumpets, their enemies began to fight each other. Have the children run and scream as if they are in a war. Have them hold a jar, a torch or something that represents the jars and torches used by Gideon’s army.

Bring water buckets. Have the children wash their hands. Then ask them to lap water like Gideon’s army did.

Make jars and torches using paper bags and flash lights. Have the children run towards an enemy shouting as if they are going to fight.

•**Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that Gideon was afraid because there was a lot that he did not understand. Tell them God wants them to obey Him even when they don’t understand His plan.

•**Sing** — Sing “Obedience Is,” “I’m in the Lord’s Army,” or a song related to the story.

Memory Verse

Their weakness was
turned
to strength.
They became
powerful
in battle.
They beat
back armies
from other countries.
Hebrews 11:34 (NIRV)

Word Art

Trace the letters.

God

used

fearful

Gideon.

Word Puzzle

L S A E B R W E D J S W
P D E D N A S U O H T P
H T B S B S L D E E O A
M S R A I I E S S L N U
A M A L E K I T E G R D
N A E O B E A X E N A E
A A N V J R N L H A H R
S L M T O A B A D S C D
S N O E D I G N I U L N
E O E R N Y I P Y D E U
H D V P D N F H T H I H
W S R T E R D U N T Y M

GIDEON

MIDIAN

AMALEKITE

ANGEL

LORD

THOUSAND

MANASSEH

JOASH

HUNDRED

Word Puzzle

L	S	A	E	B	R	W	E	D	J	S	W
P	D	E	D	N	A	S	U	O	H	T	P
H	T	B	S	B	S	L	D	E	E	O	A
M	S	R	A	I	I	E	S	S	L	N	U
A	M	A	L	E	K	I	T	E	G	R	D
N	A	E	O	B	E	A	X	E	N	A	E
A	A	N	V	J	R	N	L	H	A	H	R
S	L	M	T	O	A	B	A	D	S	C	D
S	N	O	E	D	I	G	N	I	U	L	N
E	O	E	R	N	Y	I	P	Y	D	E	U
H	D	V	P	D	N	F	H	T	H	I	H
W	S	R	T	E	R	D	U	N	T	Y	M

GIDEON

MIDIAN

AMALEKITE

ANGEL

LORD

THOUSAND

MANASSEH

JOASH

HUNDRED

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

L J A E I S R P W L Q F
P D B Z A N G E L P T S
G I D E O N L D N G W L
D W B V R K H G L O R D
T V K I C F P M W N D S
F O B K S E M I D I A N
D E L I V E R S Z O K F
R F S K L C J O A S H I

ANGEL

LORD

GIDEON

MIDIAN

JOASH

DELIVER

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

L J A E I S R P W L Q F

P D B Z A N G E L P T S

G I D E O N L D N G W L

D W B V R K H G L O R D

T V K I C F P M W N D S

F O B K S E M I D I A N

D E L I V E R S Z O K F

R F S K L C J O A S H I

ANGEL

LORD

GIDEON

MIDIAN

JOASH

DELIVER

Anagram

1. TMYIHG-

2. RRRAIOW -

3. NGALE-

4. RDOL-

5. EEILDRV-

6. DHNSA-

7. ITPRMUE-

8. RASJ-

Anagram

1. TMYIHG – MIGHTY
2. RRRAIOW – WARRIOR
3. NGALE – ANGEL
4. RDOL – LORD
5. EEILDRV – DELIVER
6. DHNSA – HANDS
7. ITPRMUE – TRUMPET
8. RASJ – JARS