



Date: _____
Series: Judges
Summer, Year 2, Lesson 4

Gideon

Take Home Point: *God helps us.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Judges 6 & 7:1-22

We will help children know:

- God helped Gideon win the battle.
- God loves us and helps us.




We will help children feel:

- Confident because God will help them.
- Happy that God loves them.

We will help children do:

- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that reminds us of Gideon's trumpet.
- Make a helmet for a craft.
- Play a learning game called *Will God Help You?* and a movement game called *God's Soldiers*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce learning today's Take Home Point: ***God helps us.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (5-10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toys of your choice
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice
	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy puppet with pink pony in a bag
	4	Bible Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's picture Bible
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	5	Activity 1: Acting Out Bible Event	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's picture Bible
	8	Activity 2: Snack	<i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> napkins cups of water Bugles
	9	Activity 3: Craft	<i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One piece of 8-1/2 x 11 paper for each child Copy of Appendix A, one per child Tape Cut-up pieces of aluminum foil glue sticks
	10	Activity 4: Learning Game Movement Game	<i>Activity 4: Games</i> <i>Learning Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none <i>Movement Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 beanbags 8 foot rope
	11		
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	12	Review Lesson and Take Home Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice
	12	Pray	
	13	Sing (Optional)	

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: You may use singing as a large group activity and to gather attention. The opening puppet presentation is a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the "joke" but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Singing: Use music of your choice.

Puppet Presentation

Supplies:

- Children's picture Bible
- Pink pony in a bag

Judy Learns That God Helps Us

Presenter: Boys and girls, let's call out Judy.

Kids call for Judy. **Judy...Judy...Judy.** Judy comes out holding bag with her pink pony in it.

Presenter: Hi, Judy.

Judy: Hi, everyone.

Presenter: What's in your bag?

Judy: My pink pony. I'm hiding it.

Presenter: You are? Why?

Judy: There was a big mean bully at the playground. He said he was going to take my pink pony and throw it in the trashcan.

Presenter: Oh, that sounds terrible.

Judy: Oh, it is. He is a very mean boy. I am hiding my pink pony so he can't get it. I am going to hide it until I can get lots of people to help me.

Presenter: What do you mean?

Judy: Maybe everyone here can come to the playground and chase that bully away.

Presenter: Judy, this reminds me of what we are learning about today.

Judy: That a bully wants to steal my pink pony?

Presenter: No. That God helps us, just like he helped one of his leaders named Gideon.

Judy: What happened?

Presenter: See what I am holding? This is the Bible. It is God's word. Everything in the Bible is true. Now I am going to read about our lesson from the Bible. Let's put on our listening ears.

Read the Bible Event from a children's picture Bible.

Presenter: Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *God helps us. God helps us.

Presenter: Judy, will you help us sing our song of the week?

Judy: Sure, I love to sing.

Song: to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

GO-d HELPS us.
GO-d HELPS us.
YES he DOES. YES he DOES.
HE loves US and HELPS us.
HE loves US and HELPS us.
GOD helps US.
GOD helps US.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
You help us. You help us.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for three-year-olds should be one to six or fewer. Divide into groups of six with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of up to twelve. The ratio will be maintained at one to six.

Activity 1: Acting Out the Bible Event

Supplies:

- Children's picture Bible

God Helps Gideon

Judges 6 & 7:1-22

Introduction

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them, too.

God's people forget about him.

- The Israelites were God's special people. God loved them very much. Give yourself a hug.
- But God's people forgot to love God and do what he said. Instead, they did bad things. Because they did bad things, bad things happened to them.
- Their enemies were very mean to them. Show me a mean face.
- Their enemies, the Midianites, took the Israelites' land. They took their animals. They took their food. God's people were very scared and sad. Show me a sad face.

Gideon is chosen.

- God decided to help his people. He sent an angel to a man named Gideon. The angel told Gideon that God had chosen him to be a mighty warrior for God. Show me your muscles like you are a mighty warrior.

- Gideon was not sure if he could be a mighty warrior. He wanted to serve God, but he did not know if he would be strong enough to lead God's people. How would God help him? Let's shrug our shoulders.

Too many soldiers.

- God told Gideon to blow his trumpet and the soldiers would come. He blew his trumpet and many, many soldiers came to follow him. Let's blow on our pretend trumpet.
- When God saw all the soldiers ready to fight, he told Gideon that there were too many! God wanted everyone to know that Gideon won the battle because God helped him, not because he had a lot of soldiers. So God told Gideon to tell any soldier who was afraid to go back home. Many, many men left! Let's walk away.

Still too many.

- God saw how many soldiers were left. There were still too many. God told Gideon to take the men down to the river to get a drink and he would help him sort them out. Some of the men knelt down to get a drink and some of them dipped their hand in the water. God told Gideon that everyone who knelt down to get a drink should go home. Let's kneel down and pretend to drink from a river and then pretend to walk home.

The soldiers are chosen.

- There were not many soldiers left. But God said, "I do not need many soldiers. I will help Gideon win." The soldiers that stayed were the ones that dipped their hands in the water. Let's pretend to drink water like the soldiers did.

Gideon and the soldiers attack.

- God had a special plan to help Gideon's army win. He told them to carry a trumpet and a big jar and hide a light in the jar. They snuck up on the enemy camp. Let's walk like we are sneaking up on the enemy, holding big jars.
- When they got to the camp, they smashed the jars and showed their lights. Then they blew their trumpets and made a big noise. Let's blow our trumpets and smash our jars.

God helped Gideon win.

- The noise woke up the enemy soldiers. When they saw the lights and heard the trumpets, they were afraid. God made them

- confused. They started to attack each other instead of God's people! They were running all over the place. Let's run in place.
- God helped Gideon and his men win the battle, even though the enemy had many more soldiers. Let's hold our fists up high in the sky and shout "hurray!"

God helps us today.

God still helps us today. We can ask for his help when we pray. God hears our prayers. He loves us and helps us. Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God helps us. God helps us.

Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
You help us. You help us.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

GO-d HELPS us.
GO-d HELPS us.
YES he DOES. YES he DOES.
HE loves US and HELPS us.
HE loves US and HELPS us.
GOD helps US.
GOD helps US.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God helps us. God helps us.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies:

- Napkins
- Cups and water
- Bugles

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES CHILDREN MAY HAVE BEFORE YOU GIVE THEM ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Today we are going to eat a snack that reminds us of the trumpets that Gideon and his soldiers used. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

You help us. You help us.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Today we are learning about a man named Gideon. God wanted Gideon to go into battle with a small number of soldiers. God helped Gideon win the battle. Gideon and his men blew on trumpets to confuse the enemy. We are going to eat tiny horns that look like trumpets.

Pass out napkin, water and handful of Bugles. **Let's see if our trumpets can make any noise.** Pretend to blow on Bugle while saying, "Duh da duh!"

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God helps us. God helps us.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

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GOD helps US.

Activity 3: Craft

Children take pride in making something themselves. Resist trying to do too much for children so that they can say, "I did it myself."

Supplies:

- Appendix A, one per child printed on card stock
- One piece of 2" x 11" card stock for each child (headband)
- Tape
- Randomly cut pieces of aluminum foil
- Glue sticks

Before class, cut on dotted lines of Appendix A. This cut out area will be the helmet. Tape the 2 inch strip of card stock on the side to create a headband.

Gideon and his soldiers probably wore a helmet into battle. Today, we are going to make a helmet to remind us of Gideon and how God helps us. Was it the helmet that helped them? No. It was God who helped them. He won the battle for them. God helps us also.

First, you can decorate the side with the words. Use your glue stick to glue on the pieces of foil to make a shiny helmet. When you are finished decorating your helmet, I will come around to each of you and tape it so it fits your head. Tape the ends together so craft forms a circle. The helmet will sit on top of child's ears. If eye cut out is not big enough, cut out more.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God helps us. God helps us.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**GO-d HELPS us.
GO-d HELPS us.
YES he DOES. YES he DOES.
HE loves US and HELPS us.
HE loves US and HELPS us.
GOD helps US.
GOD helps US.**

Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
You help us. You help us.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Games

Choose one or both games to play. Children with lots of wiggles should play the Movement Game first.

Learning Game

Supplies:

- none

Today we are going to play a game called *Will God Help You?* After you answer the questions, you can do the actions.

1. Will God help you if you fall and scratch your knee? Yes. Let's pretend to put a bandage on our hurt knee.
2. Will God help you if you miss your grandma? Yes. Let's pretend to kiss our grandma.
3. Will God help you if you if you are sad? Yes. Let's make a sad face.
4. Will God help you if you do not listen to your daddy? Yes. Let's say, "I'm sorry, Daddy."
5. Will God help you when you are playing ball with you friends? Yes. Let's pretend to throw a ball.
6. Will God help you if you are scared at night? Yes. Show me your scared face.
7. Will God help you if you do not have enough food to eat? Yes. Let's pretend to take a bite of an apple.
8. Will God help you if you climb a tree and are afraid to come down? Yes. Let's pretend to climb a tree.
9. Will God help you if a bug bites you? Yes. Let's scratch a pretend bug bite on our arm.
10. Will God help you even if you are naughty? Yes. Let's fold our hands and pray, "I am sorry God. Please help me do better."

Movement Game

Supplies:

- 2 beanbags
- 8' rope

Today we are going to play a game called **God's Soldiers**. I choose all of you to join me in our pretend battle. Let's get our trumpets ready. Show children how to use your fist for a pretend trumpet. **Ok, we are ready for battle. Wait. God said I have too many soldiers.** Choose half of your children to step back and wait. **Now we are ready to go. Oh, wait. God says we still have too many soldiers. He will help us in the battle so we do not need very many soldiers.** Tell all except two children to step back and wait. Give the two children a beanbag. **Ok. Now we can go into battle. Now let's sneak over to the rope—the enemy is right behind it. Let's sound our trumpets. "Duh-da-duh." Now throw down your pretend jar (beanbag). Say, "God help us." Jump over the rope and chase the soldiers out.** Run around the room then come back to starting point. Keep playing until all children get a turn to be a soldier.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: ***God helps us. God helps us.**

Let's sing our song of the week.

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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
You help us. You help us.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter reviews the lesson with questions or by supplying key parts of the lesson with some words left out. Children are to supply the answers as the presenter shares the Bible Event.

**See if you know the words I'm thinking of when I tell the Bible Event.
If you know it, you may say it out loud without raising your hand.**

Gideon loved God. Did God want Gideon to be a mighty warrior or a circus clown? (Mighty warrior.) Did Gideon gather many soldiers to fight by calling them on his cell phone or blowing his trumpet? (Blowing his trumpet.) Did God think Gideon had enough soldiers or too many? (Too many.) Gideon told many of the soldiers to go home. He did not need many soldiers because God was going to fight for them. When it was time for the battle, the soldiers hid something in their jars. Was it lights or teddy bears? (Lights.) They snuck up on the enemy, smashed open the jars and made a great noise blowing their trumpets or blowing their noses? (Blowing trumpets.) Did God help Gideon win the battle? (Yes.) Does God help us today? (Yes.)

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

**Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
You help us. You help us.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Lesson Song:

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Frère Jacques*

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GOD helps US.
GOD helps US.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *God helps us. God helps us.

Lead the children in singing songs from a CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out God Talk at Home.

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