



Date: _____
Series: God is Our Rescuer
Fall Year 2, Lesson 21

How to Search God's Will

Take Home Point: *If you search for God's will, he will show you his way. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Judges 6:33-40. Gideon's fleece.

Key Verse: Psalm 25:4 "Make your ways known to me, O LORD, and teach me your paths."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Gideon searching for God's will and direction in his life.
- If we are searching for God's will, we are to do these three things: ask, search, and knock. In today's lesson that means we ask, watch, and obey.

We will help kids feel:

- Secure that God wants to direct our lives in a personal way.
- Loved because Jesus is with us always.

We will help kids do:

- Identify and discuss ways in which we choose to make our decisions.
- Learn and practice a simple formula for searching God's will for our choices: ask, search, and knock. (Ask, watch, and obey.)

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	Kids play a game or flip a coin to make a simple choice. But how does one make a more important choice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two different kinds of penny candy for each group (Have enough of both kinds for each child.) • a penny or coin for each group
Large Group 	4 8-9 9-10 10-13	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Searches for God’s Will” – Gordy tries to use his own fleece to decide what soccer team to play for.</p> <p>Dramatic Monologue: “Gideon and the Fleece” – A character dressed like Gideon tells the event in Judges 6:33-40.</p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Gordy Searches for God’s Will” – Gordy learns how to ask, search, and knock.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • soft, pliable chamois for Gordy’s face • two chamois, one wet and one dry <i>NOTE: Cheaper synthetic chamois’ will work as well as the authentic ones. Another option is to use real sheep’s skin or synthetic wool.</i> • large bowl or bucket to wring water into • poster board • marker • Old Testament costume for Gideon
Small Group Application 	4-7 14-17	<p>A foam bracelet and/or a prayer journal help the kids remember to ask, search, and knock at God’s “doorstep” for answers to life’s choices.</p> <p>Appendix: Prayer Journal</p>	<p><i>Option 1:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thin sheets of foam (that can be purchased at craft stores) cut in 1” x 8” strips • small squares of Velcro • markers or gel pens <p><i>Option 2:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer Journal (The children can create these, or see the appendix for a copy. Run the first two pages back to back and the second two pages back to back.)

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

The following activities are designed to help children think about and discuss how it is that they make decisions. Though they might often think of decisions and choices as right or wrong, today we will focus more on decisions between two things that are equally good. It is our objective that kids see that God needs to be part of the decision process.

Begin discussion with:

Today we are going to talk about how we make decisions. Let's practice making some decisions. I have two kinds of candy here.

Show two inexpensive but "equally good" types of penny candies.

Everyone in the group gets a piece of candy, but the entire group must all choose the same kind. How will you decide which candy you want?

Show a coin to the children as they discuss and negotiate. Suggest they flip the coin to make the decision. After the decision is made, give each child a piece of candy and ask them if they have ever flipped a coin to help make decisions.

In the next game I want you to think about your favorite thing to do on a Saturday afternoon. Find a partner and share with each other your favorite thing. Imagine that you will do this activity together, but you can only choose one of the activities. Will you do your favorite thing or the other person's?

Let the kids discuss. Before they reach a resolution, suggest that they try the "rock, paper, scissors" game or "eeny, meeny, miney, moe" as a way of choosing. Afterwards, talk about the different ways people make decisions.

When it comes to simple choices we can use silly things like flipping coins to decide. But what about the big choices we have to make in our lives such as what do we do after high school, what jobs should we pursue, and who should we marry? We can't just flip a coin and decide.

The good news is that **if you search for God's will, he will show you his way.* God has a plan for helping us make the best choices.

Today's Bible event is about a judge named Gideon. Gideon had a strange way of finding out what God's will was for him. We also want to discover how to find out God's will for our lives when we need to make an important choice.

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

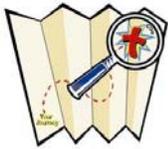
Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Searches for God’s Will” – Gordy tries to use his own fleece to decide what soccer team to play for.

Dramatic Monologue: “Gideon and the Fleece” – A character dressed like Gideon tells the event found in Judges 6:33-40.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Gordy Searches for God’s Will” – Gordy learns how to ask, search, and knock in requesting God’s direction for making decisions.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Judges 6:33-40 in their Bibles.

What did God call Gideon to do? (*Judges 6:36. Rescue Israel, lead the people against the Midianites.*)

Gideon wanted to make sure that he rightfully understood that God would use him to lead the people to victory. What was the first test he asked of God to see if he correctly understood God’s message? (*Judges 6:37-38. He placed wool or a fleece on the ground. If in the morning it was wet and the ground was dry, he would know that God had answered.*)

What did Gideon do after he got the first sign from God? (*Judges 6:39-40. He asked for a second sign; that the fleece on the ground remained dry in the morning even though the ground was wet.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why do you think Gideon asked for a sign? (*He wanted to be sure.*)

How do you think Gideon felt after God answered his sign? (*Relieved, confident.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Does God sometimes, always, or never answer *our* prayers with miraculous signs like Gideon's?

Do you think it is wrong to ask God for a sign of his will?

Today's key verse from Psalm 25:4 says, "*Make your ways known to me, O LORD, and teach me your paths.*"

What are the three words that help us describe how we can search for God's will today? (*Refer to Luke 11:9. Ask, search, and knock.*)

Jesus gave his life for us by his death and resurrection so we can have a relationship forever with God. If someone does not know Jesus as their Savior, then they would not have a relationship with God. They could not ask, search, or knock. But if they do know Jesus, they can know for sure they can ask him anything. He will lead them to do the best thing and make the best choices. Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

If any child does not know Jesus, lead them to ask, search, and knock so they may receive him as their Savior today. This means admitting their sins, acknowledging their need for a Savior, believing that Jesus died on the cross for their sins, and believing that he wants to live in their life. If they'd like to place their trust in Jesus and receive it by faith, a simple prayer might be:

Dear Jesus, I know I need you as my Savior. I'm sorry for my sin. I ask that you would forgive my sin and be my Savior. Thank you for doing so. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Application Activity:

Choose one of the following for your activity and discussion.

OPTION 1: Foam Bracelets

Supplies needed:

- *sheets of foam cut into 1" x 8" strips*
- *small pieces of Velcro*
- *markers or gel pens.*

To make bracelets, adhere the small pieces of Velcro to both ends of the foam strips. Be sure to adhere them on opposite sides of the foam strips so the bracelet attaches without twisting. Have children write the letters “A. S. K.” on the band. Then remind the children to ask, search, and knock as they search for God’s will. Remind them of the take home point, ****if you search for God’s will, he will show you his way.***

The following questions will help you discuss as the kids decorate their bracelets with markers or gel pens.

Share some of the decisions you might be asking God about as you make certain choices.

The three letters A, S, K each stand for a word. Do you remember what word the letter “S” stands for? (Search.)

How do we search for God’s direction? (We watch for things that help show us what might be a godly decision.)

What did Gordy see when he watched for a way God might use for his decision to change soccer teams? (He would have a chance to spend more time with a friend who didn’t know about Jesus. Gordy might be able to introduce his friend to Jesus.)

What are some of the things to watch for when we face some of our decisions?

What word does the letter “K” stand for? (Knock.)

What are we to do when we knock at God’s door for answers? (When he shows us the way, we are to take action and obey him. We are to walk through the door of opportunity.) Discuss with the kids some of the ways they might take action.

OPTION 2: A Prayer Journal

To make a prayer journal fold two sheets of 8 ½ x 11-inch paper in half to make three sections. Title the front cover “Searching God’s Will.” Write the Bible verse Psalm 25:4 beneath the title, “Make your ways known to me, O LORD, and teach me your paths.”

Label the first two inside pages “Ask.” The next two inside pages should be labeled “Search.” The back two pages would be labeled “Knock.” (Or see appendix to print a prayer journal.)

Have the kids talk about things they ask God for when it comes to special direction. As they write those things on the “Ask” pages, reinforce the take home point: ****if you search for God’s will, he will show you his way.***

Talk about ways God might show them “signs” in their decision making. Have them write their answers on the “Search” pages.

For the “Knock” section, talk about how God wants them to act upon what he is leading them to do. Have them record instances when God opened doors for them and how they were obedient. Or ask them to wait and record the doors God opens later.

*It might be difficult for kids to identify the “search” and “knock” parts for finding God’s will. If they cannot cognitively identify how God will use other people or events to lead them, be sure they understand that God wants a personal relationship with them. This relationship allows them to ask God for what they need in their lives. This truth can be understood as you emphasize the take home point: ***if you search for God’s will, he will show you his way.***

Closing Prayer:

Pray for specific needs or requests kids have discussed during their application activity.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Gordy Searches For God's Will Puppet Presentation

Gordy: *(Appears with a soft, pliable chamois over his head.)* Is that you, God? Hey, it's me, Gordy!

Mr. King: Hi, Gordy.

Gordy: *(Looking up)* Hi, God.

Mr. King: No, I'm not God. This is Mr. King.

Gordy: *(Deflated)* Oh, I was expecting God.

Mr. King: So that's why you have a rag over your face?

Gordy: Actually it's an animal skin, and this is what Gideon used in today's Bible event to find out God's will.

Mr. King: You already know about today's Bible event?

Gordy: Yep. I read ahead in the lesson.

Mr. King: So you're going to put this animal's skin over your face? Here, let me take it off.

Gordy: Hey, wait a minute. I was going to use that to find out if I should try out for a new soccer team.

Mr. King: How would that help?

Gordy: If it worked for Gideon, it should work for me.

Mr. King: I don't think he will use an animal skin for you just because he did for Gideon. But he has other ways to show you what he wants.

Gordy: No, Mr. King, you don't understand. If I put this on my head and suddenly it becomes wet, then I'm supposed to change soccer teams and join the Gladiators' team.

Mr. King: I don't think so, Gordy.

Gordy: I do. Here's why. Chocolate cake is my favorite dessert. My mom makes the best chocolate cake so when I eat her cake I'm glad I ate it. The new soccer team I'm thinking about joining is the Gladiators. So that's why I know that God would want me to join them. Get it? "*Glad-he-ate-hers.*"

Mr. King: I don't know, Gordy. What do you think kids?

Kids respond, "No."

Gordy: If that's not how I find out God's will, then how do I?

Mr. King: Today, we will learn **if you search for God's will, he will show you his way.* That doesn't necessarily mean he will do it the same way he did with Gideon. Why don't you listen as Gideon comes out to tell us what happened to him, and then we can talk about how God shows you his way as well.

Gordy: Okay. But do I get to eat any of my mom's chocolate cake when we're through?

Mr. King: I don't think that's important now, Gordy.

Gordy: It's important to Gordy's tummy, then you'll all know Gordy was "glad-he-ate-her" cake. And I'll know that I was supposed to be on the Gladiators soccer team.

Mr. King: Gordy, let's talk about that later. I think I hear Gideon coming now.

Gordy: Okay, Mr. King.

Gideon and the Fleece

Judges 6:33-40

Dramatic Monologue

Props that would be helpful in telling the story are:

- *two chamois, one that is soaking wet and one that is dry and stiff*
- *a bowl ready to wring the wet chamois into*

NOTE: Cheaper synthetic chamois' will work as well as the authentic ones. Another option is to use real sheep's skin or synthetic wool.

Gideon: I am Gideon, a judge that was called by God to lead the soldiers of Israel. I never considered myself a soldier or a leader. Not until God chose me, and even then, I wasn't quite sure. The Midianites had invaded our land, and God told me that I was the one to lead Israel to drive them away. Throughout the land I sent a call to arms. I told the

soldiers of Israel to come together so we could drive the Midianites away.

Even when the soldiers gathered I was not sure. So I decided to ask God in a very special way. I took this piece of animal skin, and I laid it on the dry ground of the threshing floor. I said to God, "If you are sure that you will help me save Israel, then show me this sign. In the morning let this animal skin be filled with dew from the night, and let all the ground around it be dry."

When morning came, guess what? The ground was dry all around, but the fleece was covered with dew. It was so wet that when I wrung it out, I could fill an entire bowl of water. I prayed, "Don't be angry with me, God, but please give me another sign. I need to be certain that you will be with us to help win the battle. This time let me put the fleece out overnight, and in the morning let it be dry and the ground all around it be wet."

The next morning when I went out, can you guess what I found? Right, the fleece was dry, and the ground was wet from the morning dew. Now I was *certain* that God was showing me what to do. God would help me lead the Israelite soldiers against the Midianites. God would give me the victory. What I found was **if you search for God's will, he will show his way.*

Now, if you will excuse me, it's time for me to prepare my soldiers for battle. (*Exiting stage.*) Oh, I almost forgot my special wool. I don't think you'll need it, because I don't think God will use it to show you which way to follow. I don't think he'll even use it again for me. But it is a rather special fleece and reminder of God's leading, so I think I'll keep it as a souvenir. (*Exits.*)

Gordy Searches for God's Will

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Mr. King: Gordy, what did you think about Gideon and his fleece?

Gordy: I bet it was itch, because my dog had fleas onec.

Mr. King: No. Fleece...the sheep skin God made wet and then dry for Gideon.

Gordy: Well, I sure wish God would show me what to do like he did for Gideon.

Mr. King: Gordy, he may not use a sheep's skin fleece, but he will show you his way. Let me read to you Psalm 25:4. Opens Bible. *"Make your ways known to me, O LORD, and teach me your paths."*

Gordy: You mean he will show me his ways.

Mr. King: Right. If you search for God's will, he will show you his way.

Gordy: Well, does God want me to change soccer teams? How will I know what to do?

Mr. King: Let me show you three letters that will help. Write "A.S.K" on the top of a poster board. You will later write the words; Ask, Search, and Knock, depending on which translation of the Bible you use.

A	S	K
s	e	n
k	a	o
	r	c
	c	k
	h	

Each of these letters remind us of what Jesus said in Luke 11:9. Jesus said, *"So I tell you to ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened for you."*

Gordy: What does that mean? Ask, Search, and Knock? How do you do that?

Mr. King: The first thing we do is to ask God. We know what the answer would be if we asked him whether something is right or wrong...like hitting your sister...

Gordy: You mean I can't hit my sister?

Mr. King: No. Of course not. We don't have to ask him if we can because he says it is wrong. God would not want us to do anything that he clearly tells us not to do in his word. Many of our decisions, though, are between two things that are both good. It might be like a choice between two different kinds of candy.

Gordy: Or two different soccer teams.

Mr. King: Right, but God can help us with those choices. We need to first ask him what he wants us to do. (Write the word, "Ask.")

Gordy: Well, I've done that. Then what are we supposed to do?

Mr. King: The next thing we are supposed to do is search.

Write the word, "Search." Gordy Gordy begins to look around...under, up, down...all over the stage.

This means we're supposed to watch around us for special ways

God might be showing us the best answer for us.

Gordy: Did Gideon search?

Mr. King: Of course, and God did a miracle when he made the fleece wet one day and dry the next. But God doesn't always use miracles.

Gordy: What should I be searching for to decide whether I should change to a new soccer team?

Mr. King: Well, Gordy, tell me about your new soccer team.

Gordy: It's a really good team and their goalie just moved away, and I'm a goalie.

Mr. King: That sounds like a good fit. Are you watching for special ways God could use you on the new soccer team?

Gordy: Well, one of my friends is on that team. But...he never goes to church so maybe God doesn't want me hanging out with him.

Mr. King: I don't think so. What do you think, boys and girls? Do you think God could use Gordy on that soccer team to help his friend learn about Jesus, the best friend anyone could have?

Gordy: Oh yeah. I could invite him to Kingdom Quest!

Mr. King: Great idea, Gordy! That is a wonderful sign to watch for. God might use your new soccer team to help someone else. And as you search God in your decision, God will use great goalies like you to help others know about his Son Jesus.

Gordy: I think I am beginning to see how this would be a good choice. Now what's next? What does the "K" stand for? Oh, I know! Cake!

Mr. King: The letter "K" (writes the word "knock" on the poster board) stands for knock.

Gordy: Oh, how do I knock? Is there some kind of door or something?

Mr. King: Well, it's like an imaginary door that opens up so we can make a new decision and go to a new place. When we first ask God and search him, he can lead us in a new direction. So when we knock it means that we take action to go through the door he has opened for us.

Gordy: You mean like join the team?

Mr. King: That's an example. If you ask God and search for his signs, then it is

time for you to take action and knock on the door. God will either open or close the door. If he opens it, go through just like Gideon did.

Gordy: What did Gideon do?

Mr. King: Gideon asked God what he should do. He searched for God to show him a sign that there would be a victory, and he knocked by obeying what God wanted him to do. We'll find out next week how he took action and led his army against the Midianites.

Gordy: Okay, I think I have it. Ask, search, and knock.

Mr. King: And that reminds us, **if you search for God's will, he will show you his way.*

Gordy: Fantastic!

Mr. King: Will you pray now, Gordy?

Gordy: Sure. God, thank you for showing us your way. Help us make decisions. And if there are kids here today that need your help to make decisions, please remind them to ask, to search, and then to knock. As always, thank you for giving us your Son Jesus, to be our savior and the one we follow. In his name we pray, Amen.

Searching God's Will
Prayer Journal



“Make your ways known to me, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.”
Psalm 25:4

ASK



SEARCH



KNOCK

