Lesson
11
1st-4th

GIDEON AND THE 300

November 14 & 15

GOD IS MIGHTY



KEY VERSE:

"The Lord himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will never leave you. He'll never desert you. So don't be afraid. Don't lose hope."

Deuteronomy 31:8, NIRV



LESSON GOAL:

Background: Gideon and his army were preparing to fight the much larger Midianite army. God reduced Gideon's army from 32,000 soldiers to just 300 so everyone would know the victory came from Him, not from having the biggest army. Gideon and his men followed God's instructions, using trumpets, pitchers, and lamps to defeat the Midianites.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that God's power is greater than any obstacle we face. God does not need our strength or abilities to accomplish His plans. When we trust and obey Him, He can do things that seem impossible and He deserves all the glory.

Full Story: Judges 6 & 7

Key Passage: Judges 6:15-18

MISSION FOCUS:

FOCUS: Thanksgiving Donations

woodmenvalley.org/thanksgivingdonations

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Over the last few weeks, families across Woodmen have worked together to collect food for families in our community!

Because of your generosity, these families will get to enjoy a special Thanksgiving meal. What an amazing way to show God's love to others!

Thank you for giving, serving and helping make a difference. Today, let's celebrate what God has done through our church family by spending a few minutes praying and thanking God for how he uses us to bless others!


Serve the Church


Serve the City


Serve the World

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Ruby Robinson's Jungle Adventure

5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, ***(insert child/parent name)***! Look up the Bible passage in your Bible or a classroom Bible and mark it with a sticky note. Then, find a classroom activity to do until we begin Explore time.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.

DISCUSS: God is Mighty!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.

SAY:

Let's take turns sharing 3 words about our week. I'll go first! *Share your 3 words then invite the next child to share.*

Today, we are learning how **God is Mighty.** This story comes from the Bible in **Judges 6:15-18.** Let's open our Bibles so we can read it together. *Read passage.*

CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Introduce the Big 3 questions and answers to give kids a preview of the key ideas they should watch and listen for during the Bible lesson.

SAY:

Listen closely as I share the BIG 3 questions AND answers for today's lesson!
Then, let's all look for those answers in our Bible time!

1. **ASK: Who is our story about today?**
   ANSWER: God, Gideon and his army.

2. **ASK: What is the problem?**
   ANSWER: Gideon was afraid and didn't think he was strong enough to defeat the powerful Midianite army.

3. **ASK: What will God do?**
   ANSWER: God made Gideon's army even smaller to show that their victory came from His power, not their own strength!

Encourage kids to listen and watch for the answers to these questions during the Bible lesson!

MAKE: “God is Mighty!” Torch

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: paper cone, red/orange/yellow tissue paper (1 of each color per kid), God is Mighty sticker

SAY:

God is mighty! His power is greater than anything we face. God didn’t use big weapons or armies to win the battle in today’s story. He used trumpets, empty jars and torches. Let’s make a torch to remember how our God can do anything because He is mighty!

DO:

- Give each kid a paper cone and one piece of each colored tissue paper.
- Help the kids put the paper into the cone and attach the sticker.
- Once kids are done, pretend to march around the room as you say “God is mighty!”



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.

6:25-6:50pm
9:25-9:50am
11:25-11:50am

LARGE GROUP OVERVIEW

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow closer to God through participating in worship, a Bible story and Worship Response.

OPENING LARGE GROUP

INTRODUCTION

Welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.

- **4 B'S (BEHAVIORS)**
  Share the expectations for how to participate during Large Group time.
- **KEY VERSE**
  Introduce the key verse. Kids can watch the Key Verse video (when it's new for the series) or practice together using the slide.
- **MISSION FOCUS**
  Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.
- **PRAY FOR MISSION FOCUS & LESSON**

WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet personal reflection time of responding to what God is teaching them.

CLOSING LARGE GROUP

PRAYER

Transition from Worship Response by praying over the kids.

OFFERING

Highlight the opportunity to give back to God through our offering.

BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids to send them into their week with God's truth in their hearts.

OPENING LARGE GROUP SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Does anyone know our God statement for today? ***(allow kids to respond)*** **God is Mighty!** I'm so excited to dig into that with you but before we do, let's cover our 4 B's of how we're expected to participate during Large Group!

4 BEHAVIORS OF LARGE GROUP

- ***Be Ready*** – Eyes watching and ears listening.
- ***Be Respectful*** – Listen when others are talking and follow directions.
- ***Be Safe*** – Keep your hands, feet and body in your own space.
- ***Be Involved*** – Sing, answer, move and join in!

KEY VERSE - Deuteronomy 31:8

Let's recite our Key Verse together! When we memorize the Bible, we put God's truth in our hearts and minds to help us remember what is true and who God is. Let's practice together! ***Play the Key Verse video or show the verse slide.***

Serve the City

MISSION FOCUS - Celebrating Thanksgiving Donations

Over the last couple weeks, we've been collecting Thanksgiving donations to help families in our community enjoy a special Thanksgiving meal! Because of your generosity, we get to show these families God's love in a really special way. But did you know there's still another way we can help? By praying!

Because of your generosity, these families will get to enjoy a special Thanksgiving meal. What an amazing way to show God's love to others! ***(show images in PowerPoint)***

Thank you for giving, serving and helping make a difference. Today, let's celebrate what God has done through our church family by spending a few minutes praying and thanking God for how he uses us to bless others!

PRAY (for the mission focus and upcoming lesson)

Let's bow our heads, close our eyes and show respect to God while we pray!

WORSHIP

Let's move into a time of worship. This is a chance for us to praise God and say "thank you!" for everything He does for us. You can worship in a way that helps you focus on God best. You can stand, sit, kneel, raise your hands or participate in the motions. ***Play worship songs.***

SONGS: Praise, This is Amazing Grace, Who You Say I Am

LESSON VIDEO

Please take a seat quietly so we can watch our lesson video together. As you watch, see if you can find the answers to our big 3 questions! Who is the story about? What is the problem or what happens? And what does God do? Let's watch together! ***Play lesson video.***

WORSHIP RESPONSE SCRIPT

PREPARE AHEAD

Before Large Group, prepare all Worship Response materials and ask Ministry Partners to help lead and support the activity.

SUPPLIES: worry knots (tied onto Worship Response boards before large group), Battle Belongs song

REFLECT: God is Mighty!

Display the Worship Response slide with the soft music playing in the background.

Let's get our hearts and bodies ready for Worship Response. Start by taking three deep breaths *(take 3 breaths together)*. Now let's relax our bodies and find a comfortable position to be still and focus on God - one that won't distract others.

REVIEW LESSON & GOD STATEMENT

God's power and might is greater than anything we face! God showed Gideon and his army that God didn't need big strong men or lots of soldiers to win. God wanted Gideon to trust that God is mighty. God wants us to trust and follow Him, even when it feels hard or scary. He loves us and He can do anything!

EXPLAIN WORSHIP RESPONSE ACTIVITY

- Have you ever felt scared, afraid or worried? Sometimes when I feel scared or afraid, I want to curl up in a ball or it feels like I have knots in my stomach.
- Even when we're worried and afraid, God is mighty and He give us strength!
- Think about a time you've felt afraid or worried recently. Close your eyes and picture how you felt - maybe your stomach felt kind of funny or you had a lump in your throat.
- When you're ready, walk up to one of the worship response stations and quietly untie a knot from the board.
    - As you do this, think about how mighty God is and how He is always with you!
    - God is so mighty that He can help us through any fear or worry - all we have to do is give that worry and fear to Him.
    - Once you've untied your knot, you can lay it at the foot of the cross as you think about giving your worries to God.
- When you're finished, walk quietly back to your seat.
- You can pray and talk to God, you can listen to the song playing in the background or you can simply sit and be still.
- As you participate, please remember to be quiet and participate on your own

DISMISS KIDS TO PARTICIPATE & PLAY SONG

Play the song in the Powerpoint as kids participate. If the song ends before all kids are done participating, play it again.

PRAY OVER THE KIDS

After all kids have had a chance to participate, close Worship Response by simply praying over them. No transition or introduction is needed—just begin the prayer.

CLOSING LARGE GROUP SCRIPT

OFFERING

One more way we can respond to and worship God is by giving offering. Offering is an opportunity every week to give some of our money to God as a way to say "Thank you, God!" for all He has done for us. Remember, you never *have* to give offering. Giving offering is something you *choose* to do with a thankful heart! God gives to us...so we give back to Him! If you have offering today, you can place it in the offering bin before you leave.



God gives to us...



We give back to God!

BLESSING

Before we go, I want to speak a blessing over you so can you please stand up? A blessing sends us into our week with God's truth in our hearts, reminding us of who He is and that He is with us wherever we go. If you'd like, hold out your hands with your palms up as a way of showing that you are ready to receive these words and God's truth. Listen closely as I speak this blessing over you.

May you stand strong trusting that God is mightier than anything you might face this week! God is standing with you and behind you!

TRANSITION

After the blessing, dismiss kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

We learned a lot together today! Now we're going to head back to Small Group to unpack what we learned and talk about what it means for our lives. This is a great time to ask questions, share your thoughts and see if you caught the answers to our Big 3 Questions from the lesson!

6:50-7:10pm
9:50-10:10am
11:50am-12:10pm

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in **small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner**.

REFLECT: Big 3 & Application

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.

SAY:

Let's talk about what we learned today! Find a spot to sit quietly and get in a comfortable position that's not distracting to others. Let's start by looking at the **BIG 3** questions we talked about at the beginning of class. Did anyone find the answers?

1. **ASK: Who was our story about today?**
   KIDS RESPOND: God, Gideon and his army.

2. **ASK: What was the problem?**
   KIDS RESPOND: Gideon was afraid and didn't think he was strong enough to defeat the powerful Midianite army.

3. **ASK: What did God do?**
   KIDS RESPOND: God made Gideon's army even smaller to show that their victory came from His power, not their own strength!

Now let's talk about how this could **APPLY** to our own lives. Depending on what God is teaching us, our answers might be different. But I would love to hear your thoughts!

- **ASK: Why does this matter to me?**
  Example: God is all-powerful! Even when I feel weak or face something that seems too hard, I can trust that God is strong and He is with me.
- **ASK: How can I apply this to my own life?**
  Example: When I face hard things, I can trust God and ask Him for help; I can pray when I feel afraid or weak; I can remember that God is more powerful than anything I face.

PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together.

SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud. It can feel a little scary to pray together, but God loves to hear our prayers! We don't have to say anything fancy - we can just talk to Him!

DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then have a leader close in prayer. You can also use your prayer journal to write down and reflect on prayers from your group each week.

If time allows

OPTIONAL RESPOND ACTIVITY

The goal of the OPTIONAL Respond Activity is for kids to engage in a game that helps reinforce the lesson for the day.



ACTIVITY: Shrink the Army Game!

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the students can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: small soft object (foam ball, beanbag, stuffed animal)

SAY:

Gideon started with 32,000 soldiers, but God kept making his army smaller until only 300 men were left! That probably made the challenge feel harder and harder, but God wanted Gideon to know that the victory would come from His power, not from having the biggest army. Let's play a game where our group gets smaller and see how much harder the challenge becomes!

DO:

- Have kids spread out in a large circle and tell them their feet are "frozen" in place.
- Give them a small soft object to toss around the circle without moving their feet.
- After they successfully complete a round, have several kids sit down while everyone else stays in their original spot. Choose kids to sit using simple prompts like, "Sit down if you're wearing green," "Sit down if you have sneakers on," or "Sit down if you have a letter A in your name."
- Keep shrinking the group each round so the spaces between kids get bigger and the tosses get harder.
- See how small the group can get while still completing the challenge.
- When you're finished, remind kids that Gideon's army got smaller and smaller too, but God was mighty enough to give them the victory!

As parents arrive after service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.

DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing their parent the announcement card.