Lesson
11
2s & 3s

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



BIG QUESTION:

WHO IS MIGHTY?

(God is Mighty!)

TIPS & TRICKS

KEEP IT SIMPLE

- Use short, simple sentences. One instruction at a time.
- Repeat the same words and phrases often.
- Don't worry if they don't seem to "get" the lesson. Repetition matters!
- Focus on one big truth rather than trying to explain everything.

TODDLERS CURRICULUM VIDEOS:
Plex > Videos > Early Childhood > 2s/3s folder

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

CHECK-IN

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

WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, ***(insert child/parent name)***! You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.

FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

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

EXPLORE

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

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!"

ASK: Big Question

Give kids a simple, repeatable way to remember the daily God Statement

SAY:

➤ **ASK: Who is Mighty?**
RESPOND TOGETHER: God is Mighty!

Invite kids to repeat - say it together using a fun voice, simple motions or repetition to help them remember.

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 transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.

SAY:

Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: *"Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."*

Craft Example



6:25-6:40pm
9:25-9:40am
11:25-11:40am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.

EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video
(Plex > Videos > Early Childhood > 2s & 3s)

SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!

DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.

WORSHIP

Use the little kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to Plex > Videos > Early Childhood > 2s/3s folder.

SONG 1: Every Move I Make

SONG 2: Jesus Loves Me

BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 5). Use the flipbook provided.

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Supplies: Jesus Loves Me (Remix)

Have you ever felt scared or afraid? Sometimes when I feel scared or afraid, I want to curl up in a ball. Let's all curl up in a tight ball as we sit here. Even though we might feel afraid sometimes and want to hide, God is mighty and He can help us when we're scared! Let's say "God is mighty!" together, and every time we say it, we can unwind our body a little bit more until we are standing up tall. Then, we can shout "God is mighty!" all together. ***After you finish, invite kids to stand and sing "Jesus Loves Me!"***

BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

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

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: mini trumpet

INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.

SAY:

Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton is holding a trumpet and pretends to use it.*** Oh, it's a trumpet! Can we pretend to play a trumpet like Hamilton, friends? ***Pretend to blow trumpet.*** We're going to hear about some trumpets in our story today! Hamilton will you help tell the true Bible story? ***Hamilton nods.*** Friends, if you're ready to hear our Bible story today, can you wiggle your ears with me? ***Wiggle ears together.*** Let's dive in!

BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.

SAY:

God's people were surrounded by mean guys who took their food and ruined their land. ***Can you make a mean face?*** God's people were scared, so they prayed and asked God to help them. ***Can you show me your prayer hands?***

God answered their prayers by sending a man named Gideon. But Gideon was afraid too! ***Can you make a scared face?*** God told Gideon, "I will win the war for you." ***Let's put our fists in the air and say, "God will win the war for you!"***

Gideon had many people ready to fight, but God said they didn't need a big army. God wanted everyone to know that He was the one who would win. So God chose just 300 people to fight with Gideon. The 300 men blew their trumpets and broke their jars so their lights could shine. The mean guys became afraid and ran away! God won the war and took care of His people.

God is mighty! Sometimes things might seem too hard for us, but nothing is too hard for God. When we trust and obey God, He can do amazing things!

6:40-6:55pm
9:40-9:55am
11:40-11:55am

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 Question & Application

Help students process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big question 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 QUESTION** we talked about at the beginning of class.

- **ASK: Who is Mighty?**

  RESPOND TOGETHER: God is Mighty!

  Invite kids to repeat - say it together using a fun voice, simple motions or repetition to help them remember.

Now let's think about how this might apply to each of us!

- **ASK: What does this mean to you?**

  EXAMPLES: I can pray and ask God for help. I can trust God to give me His strength. I can say "thank you" to God for being mighty!

ACTIVITY- Gideon's Mighty Mission

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: Trumpets (made during Explore)

SAY:

Gideon and his army had to trust God and follow His instructions, even when His plan seemed surprising! Using their torches, kids will pretend to be part of Gideon's army as they sneak toward the enemy camp, listen for instructions and celebrate God's mighty power!

DO:

Give each child their torch and play music as they march around the room. Pause the music and call out different commands: "Hide your torch!" (crouch down and hide it), "Sneak to the camp!" (tiptoe quietly), "Blow your trumpet!" (pretend to blow a trumpet), and "Lift your torch!" (raise it high). Continue playing, changing the commands and increasing the speed. For the final round, have everyone sneak toward the pretend enemy camp. Shout "God is mighty!" and encourage kids to raise their torches high and shout it back together!

6:55-7:10pm
9:55-10:10am
11:55am-12:10pm

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.

SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



GAME IDEAS

Free play is a great way to spend the remaining classroom time and is an important part of healthy development! When you can, we also encourage you to lead at least one structured activity to help kids practice new skills, engage with others and learn together.

DO:

- **Follow the Leader** – Walk, stomp, tiptoe, jump, clap, crawl or march around the room
- **I Spy** – "I spy something BLUE!" Everyone points to or walks over to something blue
- **Creation Actions** – Call out something God created and act it out: shine like a star, sway like a tree, swim like a fish, fly like a bird
- **Praise Parade** – March around together while calling out things you can thank God for

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 Explore craft or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

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