



UNIT 2: GOD BLESSES THE FAITHFUL

LESSON 1: JUDGES

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God can use us when we obey Him.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God can do great things through us when we choose to obey Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

Judges 6:7-24; Gideon Saves Israel

MEMORY VERSE:

"Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God." Ruth 1:16b (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Gideon wasn't a likely choice, but that didn't stop God from using him to be a great leader. Gideon chose to obey God and was able to help save Israel from their great oppression.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to obey You so we can do great things.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God." Ruth 1:16b (NirV)

"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16b (NIV)

"Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." Ruth 1:16b (NLT)

"For whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: they people shall be my people, and thy God my God." Ruth 1:16b (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Post the verse on a video screen and read the verse aloud with the kids.

SMALL GROUP:

Leader will say one sentence of the verse at a time, and then kids will echo the sentence. Repeat several times.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

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KEY PASSAGE:

Judges 6:7-24; Gideon Saves Israel

INTRO:

You all probably have a favorite super hero. I'm going to show you a symbol, and I want you to shout out which superhero it belongs to. Invite kids to add what they know about the special abilities these super heroes have.

Show Spiderman symbol. Spiderman has some amazing powers; he has superhuman strength, can cling to and climb buildings, and has webbing ability.

Show Batman symbol. Although Batman doesn't actually have any super powers, he is very smart and uses his detective skills and athletic abilities to be a hero.

Show Wonder Woman symbol. Wonder Woman can practically fly as she glides on wind currents! She also has superhuman strength and speed.

Show Captain America symbol. Superhuman strength and reaction time are a couple of Captain America's gifts. He is said to have the peak of human potential meaning he's pretty much the best at everything.

These characters all are considered heroes because of their amazing powers. In today's story, Gideon was chosen by God to be a hero, but not because he had amazing powers. In fact, he was just an ordinary guy. The amazing thing about him is that he chose to obey God, and by doing so, God used him to help save the Israelites once again.

READ JUDGES 6:7-24

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT:

As we continue learning about God's big story, we come to a point where Joshua, who had been the leader, died. Judges 2:7 tells us that the people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him. Unfortunately, their obedience didn't continue. In the next generation, the people did evil in the sight of the Lord. They worshipped other gods and were given over to their enemies as a consequence. (Judges 2:10-15) God raised up judges for the people to help them keep order and settle disputes, but they were in a constant cycle of obeying then disobeying.

Our focus today is on a time that the Israelites were so oppressed by the Midianites, their major enemies; they couldn't stand it any longer. They cried out to the Lord for help. God sent them a prophet to remind them AGAIN of all the ways God had saved them. How did they keep forgetting? I bet you all remember what God did. He brought them out of slavery in Egypt. He helped them win battles and gave them a new land. He told them to worship Him. That's where they came up short every time. They forgot or they didn't care. They constantly went back to worshiping the fake gods of other people.

God was about to reveal another plan to forgive and save His people again. One day He sent an angel to a man named Gideon. He was working on threshing wheat when the angel came. That means he was separating the bad parts from the good parts that could be eaten. He was doing it in a place where he could hide from the Midianites. There wasn't anything really special about Gideon. In fact his family was the weakest in their tribe, and Gideon was the least important member of his family. He didn't seem like much of a hero, but God saw him otherwise. The angel of the Lord told Gideon that he was strong and even called him a mighty warrior.

At first, Gideon had a hard time believing that he was really being chosen to be the hero for the next battle. He asked for a sign. He wanted to be sure it was really God talking to him through the angel. To put it to the test, Gideon prepared a sacrifice of meat and bread and soup. When he brought it to the angel, he was given some strange instructions. The angel told him to put the meat and bread on a rock, and then pour the soup over it. After obeying, the angel touched the tip of his staff onto the food and fire came out of the rock! I bet Gideon didn't expect that to happen! But it did prove to him that God was calling him to lead the Israelites in a fight against the Midianites. Gideon built an altar to God right at that place.

From that point, Gideon did ask for a few more signs from God, but God proved Himself to be all-powerful each time. When Gideon obeyed, God helped him lead an army to defeat the Midianites.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Gideon helped turn around the consequences of the Israelites' disobedience. His obedience helped them live in peace for a while.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

He couldn't travel through time or read people's minds. He wasn't even the best or strongest person in his own family. So, what made God choose Gideon to be a hero? Gideon obeyed. He chose to serve the Lord when many did not. This is what made him a hero for the Israelites.

Think about yourself for a minute. I'm pretty sure God didn't give you or me a superpower either. We can't make webs come out of our hands like Spiderman. We don't have major power when we hold a hammer in our hand like Thor. But we can be a hero when we choose to obey and do the right thing. When we don't obey, we can often feel guilty. Disobedience leads to consequences too. Obedience leads to the chance for God to use us to do great things, just like he used Gideon.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to obey you. Show us how you can use us to do great things.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

If you could choose one superhero power, what would it be?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Leader will say one sentence of the verse at a time, and then kids will echo the sentence. Repeat several times.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

You will need a tote of shredded paper and 10 one-inch squares of paper. The paper squares should be the same color as the shredded paper. Beforehand, number the squares 1-10, then hide them in the shredded paper.

Tell kids they will be threshing wheat in this game just like Gideon was doing when the angel came to him. They will sift through the paper to find the square pieces of paper (separating the grain from the chaff). When they have found all 10 pieces, line them up in the correct order. Optional: time kids to see how long it takes for them to work together to find all the grains. Repeat and see if they can beat their time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why did the people cry out to the Lord? (Judges 6:7)
- Who did God send to the people to give them a message? (Judges 6:8)
- What was Gideon doing when the angel appeared to him? (Judges 6:11)
- Who appeared to Gideon (Judges 6:12)
- Was Gideon's family the strongest or the weakest in the tribe? (Judges 6:15)
- What did Gideon ask for? (Judges 6:17)
- What happened to the meat and bread Gideon had prepared? (Judges 6:21)

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to obey You. Help us to know how we can serve You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

GIDEON

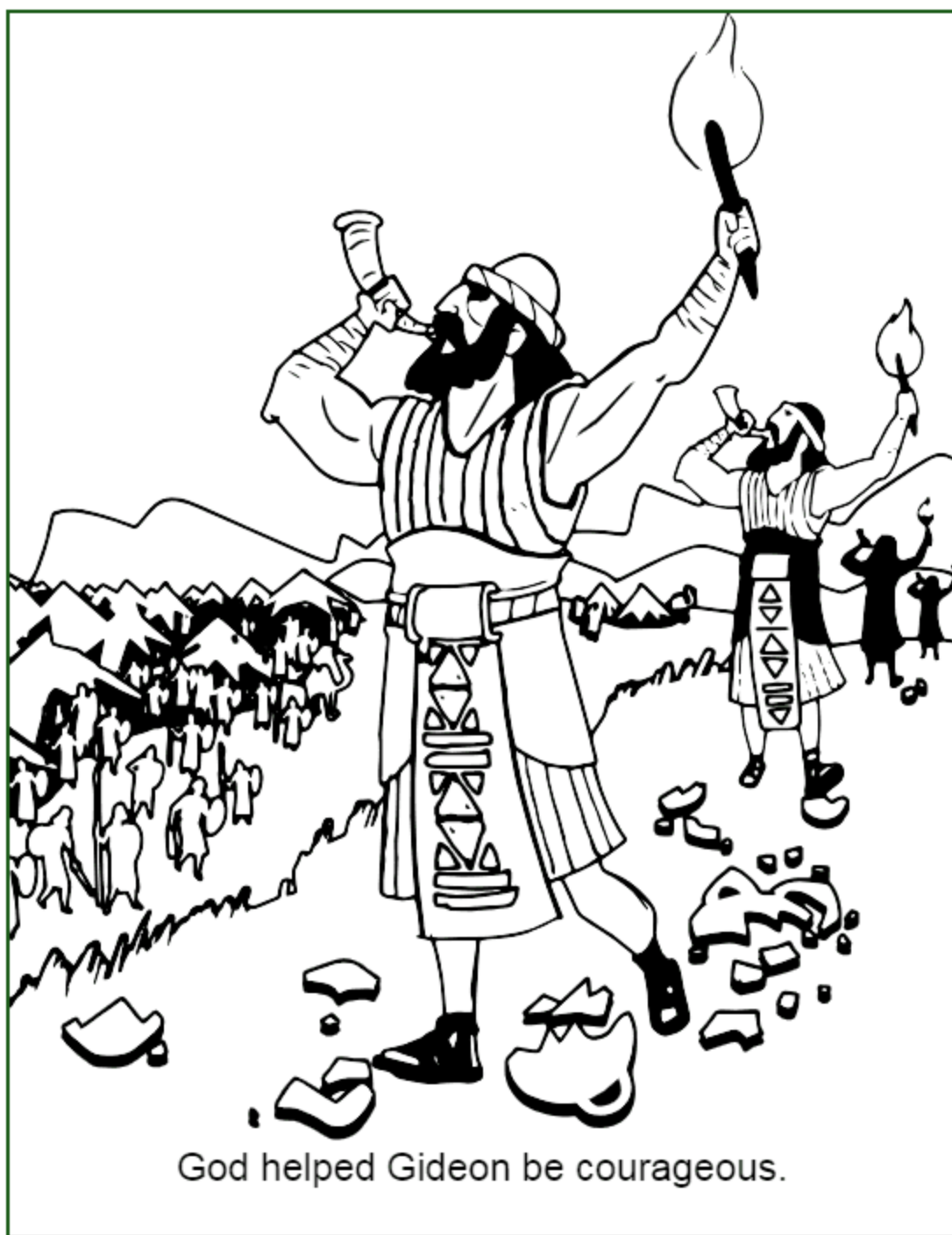
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M	W	R	B	D	E	Y	N	K	J	N	T	C	M	R	U	G	Y	N	T
A	C	D	A	A	J	S	Y	T	D	D	V	S	W	C	C	X	S	I	S
N	A	U	V	U	R	X	S	H	P	Y	T	E	E	G	C	J	L	T	V
A	E	F	I	H	N	L	Q	E	Q	L	R	U	Y	G	O	D	M	E	R
S	L	C	K	Y	A	I	E	X	N	U	U	S	P	O	T	E	K	S	C
S	G	H	Q	A	J	R	V	Y	I	G	F	D	H	Q	H	Y	J	P	F
E	S	U	O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

JUDGE
MESSENGERS
MIDIANITES
WATER
BARLEY BREAD
PROPHET

ARMY
MANASSEH
FIRE
BAAL
ISRAELITE
YAHWEH

GIDEON
VICTORY
PEACE
SUCCOTH
ANGEL
FLEECE

For more free Bible resources and Teacher Packs including coloring pages,
worksheets, quizzes and more visit our website at:
www.biblepathwayadventures.com





MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

The Year Long Bible Journey Judges

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: JUDGES



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

This week we learned about how God used a simple guy like Gideon to be a hero. All he had to do was obey. When he chose that, he was able to lead the Israelites in winning a battle against their enemies. Judges 6:7-24; Gideon Saves Israel



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Talk about what God might be calling you to do with His help. Heroes can look a lot of different ways. It may be doing something to help an elderly neighbor. It could be inviting a friend to church.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who is your favorite superhero and why?
- Who is someone you know that is a hero to you?
- How can regular people be heroes with God's help?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Never stop reading this Book of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success." Joshua 1:8 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know: Sometimes kids think they can't accomplish much because they are little or young. Be an encourager to your child this week. Help them to know they can do big and great things when God works through them.

Challenge: read the rest of the story about Gideon with your child. Judges 6:33-40 tells about how Gideon asked God for more signs. Judges 7 tells about how God helped Gideon and His army win the battle.

JUDGES

Supplemental Week 5 Readings

Spiritual Problems Ch.1-2

Deborah - the only woman judge Ch. 4-5

Gideon - a great judge Ch. 6-8

Samson Ch. 13-16

Israel in disarray Ch. 17-21

