



God Helps Gideon Defeat the Midianites

Judges 6:1-16; 7:1-24




Many 5- and 6-year-olds are beginning to question things they hear. In the past, they may have trusted adults with blind faith; now they're beginning to evaluate things based on their own experiences. Be open, honest, and loving with children. Encourage their questions, and be patient when answering them. As children relate to adults they can trust, they'll also learn they can trust God.



► **Bible Point**
We can trust God.


Key Verse
"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God" (Isaiah 41:10).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will remember to trust God when they're scared.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Do Not Fear Share a group hug and sing a song.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what an angel picture has to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet Teacher Pack: CD, Angel picture 	Place the Angel Picture in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time Listen to a rap that tells about Gideon, and learn that God doesn't need spears to defeat the enemy.	Bible, tape, 2-liter bottle, CD player, 1 toothpick per child, glue Teacher Pack: CD, "Trust God Rap" Script, Angel Picture, "Gideon's Army Surrounds the Midianites" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)  	Carefully tape the Angel Picture to a clean, empty 2-liter bottle.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: I Will Not Fear Make a story wheel that helps kids see God's presence in their lives.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, 1 colored paper per child, scissors, 1 paper fastener per child Teacher Pack: Story Wheel</p> 	<p>Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Photocopy the Story Wheel from the Teacher Pack onto colored paper, and cut the circles out. You'll need one circle for each child.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Together! Talk about how God "sticks with" them while they eat a snack.</p>	<p>2 round crackers per child, canned cheese spread</p>	
	<p>Center 3: Don't Be Afraid Hear different sounds and remind each other not to be afraid.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
	<p>Center 4: "Trusty" Trumpets Make trumpets and blow them in a parade to praise God.</p>	<p>1 empty paper towel tube per 2 children, 1 scrap of wrapping paper per child, one 4-inch square of wax paper per child, 1 rubber band per child, glue, safety scissors, markers</p>	<p>Cut the empty paper towel tubes in half. Make sure you have one half for each child.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground</p>	
	<p>"No Fears" Prayer Encourage each other not to be afraid.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground</p>	<p>Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each My Bible Playground student book to give to parents when they pick up their children.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "All Here Today"
(track 6); "My God Is"
(track 3)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song

Tip Don't know the melodies to the songs in this guide? Download the 99-cent Kids Songs app by Alkeo and play the tunes for 200+ common children's songs.

Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "All Here Today" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "I Have the Joy" and lead children in doing the motions.

 **We've got our friends, pals, buddies, chummies** (*have children pat each other's backs*)

All here today! (Where?) (*have children look to the left*)

All here today! (Where?) (*have children look to the right*)

All here today! (*have children pat each other's backs*)

We've got our friends, pals, buddies, chummies


All here today! (Where?) (*have children look to the left and then look to the right*)

All here to learn and play! (*have children clap to the beat*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **It's fun to learn things with our friends. Today we're going to learn that we don't need to fear anything, because God is with us! Don't we have a good God? Let's sing "My God Is."**

Begin the CD, and lead kids in singing "My God Is" (track 3 on the CD).

 **My God is the God of creation.
My God made the land and the sea.
My God gave me hope and salvation.
Oh, that's what my God is to me.**

(Chorus)

Father, Savior—

Oh, that's what my God is to me, to me.

Creator, master—





Oh, that's what my God is to me.
My God is a friend to the lonely.
My God sets the prisoner free.
My God is a loving companion.
Oh, that's what my God is to me.
(Repeat chorus 2x.)

2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Do Not Fear

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Isaiah 41:10, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God." This means that we should not fear because God is with us. Let's say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the adapted Key Verse, "Do not fear; God is with you," as you say it with them.

We all feel afraid sometimes. Maybe you feel afraid at night when it's dark, or maybe you feel afraid when you hear a big dog bark. Show me how you look when you're afraid.

Ask:

- **What are some things you're afraid of?**

Say: **Let's say a rhyme to show that we all have fears sometimes.**

The following game is based on the rhyme "Who Stole the Cookies?" Choose a child to begin, and lead the children in saying the rhyme. At the end of the rhyme, have the Chosen Child become the Leader and name a new Chosen Child. Continue the game until every child has had a turn to be the Chosen Child.

All: **Who has a fear that's oh-so-large?**

Leader: [Chosen Child's name] **has a fear that's oh-so-large.**

Chosen Child: **Who, me?**

All: **Yes, you!**

Chosen Child: **Couldn't be!**

All: **Then who?**

Ask:

- **Who does the Bible say will help us when we're afraid?**
- **How does it make you feel to know that God is always with you?**



Do Not Fear Supplies

Bible

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Do Not Fear" (track 9)






Say: **The Bible tells us not to fear, because God is with us.** Have children stand, put their arms around each other, and share in a group hug.

Knowing God is with you is like a big hug. Let's sing a song to help us remember the Key Verse: "Do not fear; God is with you."

Begin the CD, and lead kids in singing "Do Not Fear" (track 9 on the CD) to the tune of "Found a Peanut." Have kids clap to the beat.

 **Do not fear, do not fear,
God is always with you.
You can always trust in God,
God is always with you.** (*point to someone*)
(Repeat 2x.)

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo found.

(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the picture of the angel around the circle so the rest of the class can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide an angel in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, there's an angel in the story today.

Teacher: Kids, what do you know about angels?

(Pause for kids to tell you what they know about angels.)

Teacher: Children, who do you think sends angels?

(Pause to allow kids to answer your question.)

Theo: Many times in the Bible, angels said special things to God's people. In the story today, an angel visits a man named Gideon.

Teacher: Let's find out what the angel told Gideon.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Say goodbye to Theo.

Theo's News Supplies

CD player

Surprise Box (any box will do)

Theo puppet

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 2)

Angel Picture

Bible Exploration:

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the Angel Picture in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.





Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Judges 6, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► WE CAN TRUST GOD.** Have kids repeat the Bible Point after you.

An angel told Gideon that God wanted him to help his people defeat their enemies. Gideon was afraid, because he thought he was too small and weak. But the angel said, "Do not fear; God is with you."

Before we listen to the story, think of one thing that you're afraid of. Maybe it's a loud thunderstorm or maybe it's a big bully in your neighborhood. Pause while kids think. **Now show me how you look when you're afraid.** Have kids show you their "afraid faces."

In the beginning of our story, we'll hear that Gideon was afraid to do what the angel said. When we hear this, I'll point to you and you can show me how you look when you're afraid. Let's practice now. Point to the kids and have them look afraid. **I think Gideon might have looked just like you when he heard the angel talk to him! At the end of the story, we'll hear that Gideon knew that God was with him. When we hear this, let's form a circle and give each other a big group hug. OK, let's hear the angel tell the story.**

Begin the CD and play the "Trust God Rap" (track 10 on the CD), a rap version of the story told by the angel. Have kids take turns holding the angel and pretending to tell the story. Use the "Trust God Rap" Script to follow along. Play the rap three times, and recue the CD as necessary. Each time you play it, have kids repeat the last two lines with you.

Say: **When Gideon trusted God, God saved Gideon and his men from the mean Midianites. Look at this poster...Gideon's men carried only torches and trumpets. They knew God was powerful enough to help them defeat the Midianites without any spears or swords.** Hold up a toothpick. **Let's pretend these toothpicks are spears. We'll glue them on the ground around Gideon and his army to show that they could just leave their spears on the ground. They didn't need those spears! They had God helping them.** Give each child one toothpick. Assist the children in gluing the toothpicks on the ground around the feet of Gideon's men on the poster.



Bible Time Supplies

Bible
tape
2-liter bottle
CD player
1 toothpick per child
glue

Teacher Pack

CD: "Trust God Rap" (track 10)
"Trust God Rap" Script
Angel Picture
"Gideon's Army Surrounds the Midianites" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Bible Time Easy Prep

Carefully tape the Angel Picture to a clean, empty 2-liter bottle.





Center 1: I Will Not Fear

Supplies

My Bible Playground
1 colored paper per child
scissors
1 paper fastener per child

Teacher Pack
Story Wheel

Center 1: Obedient Puppets

Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 1 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Photocopy the Story Wheel from the Teacher Pack onto colored paper, and cut the circles out. You'll need one circle for each child.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think Gideon was afraid to trust God?
- What happened when Gideon decided to trust God?
- What can you trust God to do?

Say: **Even though Gideon was afraid and unsure at first, he put his trust in God. God helped him defeat his enemies. Just like Gideon, ► WE CAN TRUST GOD. We don't need to fear anything, because God is with us.**

At the end of this activity, carefully remove the Angel Picture from the 2-liter bottle, and put the picture back in the Teacher Pack.

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

I Will Not Fear

What You'll Do

Distribute the Lesson 1 pages from My Bible Playground and let kids write their names on the pages. Then help the children use paper fasteners to attach their circles to the pictures. Show kids how to turn the circles to reveal one picture at a time. Have them look at the pictures and describe each one. Ask the kids to share how God makes them feel safe in each of these places and situations. Remind children that we ► **WE CAN TRUST GOD** to care for us no matter where we are or what we're doing. We never have to fear, because God is always with us.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- When might you feel afraid?
- How does it make you feel to know that you can trust God anywhere, anytime?



- How can you tell God that you're thankful he is with you?

Say: **It's good to know that no matter where we are or what we're doing, God is with us. We don't have to be afraid. Every day of our lives, ► WE CAN TRUST GOD.**
Say a prayer of thanks to God for his presence always.

■ **CENTER 2:**

Together!

■ **What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Have the children wash their hands before beginning. Give each of the children two round crackers. Have kids prepare cracker sandwiches by squeezing cheese onto one cracker and then placing the second cracker on top. Have kids pull the two crackers apart and then put them back together again.

Say: ► **WE CAN TRUST GOD to stick with us. We don't have to fear anything, because God is always with us.** Have kids pull the crackers apart and then stick them together again. **Let's thank God for sticking with us everywhere we go and in everything we do.** Invite one child to pray for the snack.

■ **CENTER 3:**

Don't Be Afraid

■ **What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Gather the children in a circle and have them sit down.

Say: **In a moment, I'll play a lot of different sounds for you to listen to. If you hear a sound that makes you feel scared, link arms with the people on either side of you and say out loud: "Don't be afraid; God is with us."**

Play the "Scary Sounds" (track 11 on the CD), which has five different sounds on it: a tiger, a windstorm, a dog, cracks of thunder, and a siren.

■ **Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which sounds were most scary for you? Why?
- How did you feel when you linked arms and said "Don't be afraid; God is with us"?
- The next time you're afraid, what would God want you to remember?



Center 2: Together! Supplies

2 round crackers per child
canned cheese spread

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Don't Be Afraid Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Scary Sounds" (track 11)





Center 1: “Trusty” Trumpets Supplies

1 empty paper towel tube per 2 children
1 scrap of wrapping paper per child
one 4-inch square of wax paper per child
1 rubber band per child
glue
safety scissors
markers

Center 1: “Trusty” Trumpets Easy Prep

Cut the empty paper towel tubes in half.
Make sure you have one half for each child.

Say: **In our Bible story, Gideon was afraid at first, but the angel told him “Don’t fear; God is with you.” God helped Gideon, and God helps us, too. When we’re scared, we can remember that God is always with us.**

CENTER 4:

“Trusty” Trumpets

What You’ll Do

Pass out the paper towel tubes and the wax paper squares. Also have a rubber band and a scrap of wrapping paper for each child.

Say: **In our story Gideon had only a small army. But with God’s help they used trumpets and torches to defeat the Midianite army. Gideon trusted God. Let’s make our own trumpets to remind us to trust God.**

Give each child a piece of wrapping paper. Help children glue the wrapping paper around their paper towel tubes and trim off any excess paper from the ends. Next show kids how to put a piece of wax paper over one end of the tube, securing the wax paper with a rubber band. Help children write “Trust God” on the side of their trumpets. Demonstrate how to hum loudly into the tube to make a vibrating sound.

Say: **We can blow our trumpets in praise to God because ► WE CAN TRUST GOD when we are afraid, just as Gideon did.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Have you ever been afraid of something you were asked to do? What was it?**
- **How did Gideon trust God when he was afraid?**

Say: **God told Gideon to go up against the mighty army of the Midianites, and he was afraid. But he trusted God, and God helped him. Take your trumpets home to remind you that ► WE CAN TRUST GOD.**



5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **WE CAN TRUST GOD**. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to think about how you can trust God.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. Put a small cross in your pocket. Every time something scares you, pull the cross out of your pocket and remember you can trust God when you're scared.
2. Draw a picture of something that scares you. Share the picture with a friend or family member and tell him or her what you learned about how Gideon trusted God and how you can trust God when you're scared, too.
3. Think about something that really scares you. Ask your mom or dad to pray with you every night to help you remember to trust God when you're scared.

Say: If you want to carry a small cross, circle choice number 1. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 2. If you want to pray with your parents, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

"No Fears" Prayer

What You'll Do

Have kids link arms in a circle for the prayer time.

Say: Think of one thing you're afraid of that you want to share with God. I'll pause during the prayer for you to say your fear out loud. We'll go around the circle so each one of you can pray.



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Playground

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each My Bible Playground student book to give to parents when they pick up their children.

Dear God, please hear us as we tell you things we're afraid of. Have the children each say one thing they're afraid of. **We know that we can trust you and we don't have to fear, because you are always with us. Thank you for being with us every day.**

In Jesus' name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

Send the letter to parents home with your kids or give it to parents when they pick up their children. This is a great way to show families they're important to your church and to support their role as spiritual leaders to their children.

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

