

# Small Group Leader Guide

## Today's Suggested Schedule

The toddler curriculum provides one monthly Bible Story because we understand that toddlers learn best through repetition. The toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft elements that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos. We hope that by sending home a simple toddler craft, you are cueing families to begin having conversations at home with their children.

### Story Time

→ Tell It

### Craft Time

→ Lift the Flap Gideon

THIS MONTH  
↓



### Today's Bible Story

## Gideon Judges 6 and 7

### Bottom Line

**God can help you be brave.**

### Memory Verse

**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the LORD your God goes with you."**

**Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV**

# Story Time

## What You Need

- ☐ Preschool Bible

## Note

Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

## ① What You Do

→ Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story.

## ② What You Say

"Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (**HOLD UP THE BIBLE**) begins with a man named Gideon. He was afraid of the mean Midianite army so he, along with all the other Israelites, hid in holes in the mountain!

"The Midianites would come and destroy all the Israelites' crops, and they would do this every year for seven years. One time, Gideon was trying to hide some of the wheat so it would be safe and they would have it for food later.

"While doing so, God sent an angel to tell Gideon, 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!' God wanted Gideon to lead an army to defeat the Midianites.

"Gideon didn't think he was the right person for the job. He felt small and unimportant. But God said He would be with Gideon.

"So the Israelites took trumpets, jars, and torches and quietly walked to where the Midianites were. When they got there, they made a really loud noise by blowing their trumpets and smashing their jars! Then shouted: 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' Let's all shout that. (**WITH CHILDREN.**) 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' Great job! Now the Midianites were afraid and ran away! God helped Gideon be brave and lead the army to defeat the Midianites. God helped Gideon be brave and **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help you be brave!"

# Craft Time

## What You Need

- ☐ "Lift the Flap Gideon" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Brown construction paper
- ☐ Dot markers
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

## Notes

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times.

Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

## ① What You Do

→ Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time.

### Before the Activity

1. Copy "Lift the Flap Gideon" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Cut the brown construction paper in quarters, one per child.
3. Write each child's name on their paper.

### During the Activity

1. Encourage children to color their paper, then help tape the brown construction paper over the picture of Gideon.
2. Lift the flap to find Gideon and his army.
3. Clean hands as needed.

## ② What You Say

"Look at your paper, there's Gideon. He's scared of the Midianite army and is hiding in a hole. And this picture is of Gideon and his army. Color both your pictures. (PAUSE.) Great! Now let's tape a piece of paper over Gideon in the hole. (POSITION AND PLACE A PIECE OF TAPE ALONG THE TOP OF THE PAPER.) God was with Gideon and helped him be brave. (LIFT THE FLAP.) Gideon led his army to the Midianites, and they made a loud noise and shouted, 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' And the Midianites ran away! God helped Gideon be brave, and (BOTTOM LINE) God can help you be brave!"