

Toddlers

Small Group

October — Week 3

# 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

→ Draw It

### Craft Time

→ Handprint Torch

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
- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Washable markers

## 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. (**DRAW A STICK FIGURE, GIDEON.**) He was afraid of the mean Midianite army (**DRAW MULTIPLE STICK FIGURES OUT TO THE SIDE—SOME WITH MEAN FACES**) so he, along with all the other Israelites, hid in holes in the mountain! (**DRAW STICK FIGURE GIDEON IN A HOLE.**)

"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 (**DRAW STICK FIGURE ANGEL AND GIDEON**), 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!' God wanted Gideon to lead an army to defeat the Midianites (**DRAW GIDEON AND GOD'S ARMY**).

"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! (**HOLD UP A PICTURE OF GIDEON AND THE ARMY TORCHES AND TRUMPETS UP AND BROKEN JARS ON THE GROUND.**) 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

- ☐ "Handprint Torch" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Yellow, orange, and red washable ink pads
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ 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 "Handprint Torch" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Write each child's name on their paper.

### During the Activity

1. Help children cover their hand with yellow ink and press on their paper.
2. Clean hands.
3. Repeat with orange and red ink pads and clean hands.

## ② What You Say

"Gideon led God's army with a trumpet, a jar, and a torch. Let's complete this picture of the torch with your handprints. Let's cover your hand with the yellow ink and press it at the top of the torch. **(PAUSE.)** Now let's do that with the orange ink pad. **(PAUSE.)** And the red ink pad. **(PAUSE.)** We did it! **(CLEAN HANDS.)** Everyone say, 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' **(WITH CHILDREN.)** 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' Hooray friends! God helped Gideon be brave and **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help you be brave!"