

1st-3rd Grade Lesson Plan

Sunday, August 10

UNIT 8 | SESSION 3

GIDEON LED ISRAEL

JUDGES 6-7

MAIN POINT / CHRIST CONNECTION: God is the one who gives victory. Gideon could have never won the battle without God's power. Victory came from God alone. We cannot save ourselves from sin. Only Jesus can save us from our sin.

CATECHISM QUESTION : Q) What is sin? A) Sin is going our own way instead of going God's way. (Isaiah 53:6).

MEMORY VERSE of the Month: PHILIPPIANS 4:19 - "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (ESV)

Preparation

Lesson Context

This Unit: Despite Israel's rebellion and attacks from neighboring tribes, God was gracious to raise up judges who would rescue His people from their enemies. While these judges only provided temporary help, they reminded God's people that He would one day provide a perfect Judge to rescue His people from the power of sin.

Volunteer Huddle | 8:45 a.m.

Meet in the Threes classroom (first floor) for prayer and important info for this Sunday.

Prep Room | 8:50 a.m.

- Put out activity pages (in Activity Box) and markers (in Teacher Box) on desks.

- If you'd like, put music on the Spotify app on the Roku TV.
- You can push tables back or to the sides to make space in the center or front of the room for activities.

Fellowship Time | 9:00 - 9:15 am

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Greet families at the door as they arrive. Allow children time to engage with one another and catch up. Use this time to get to know your students and hear about their week. What was a good part/hard part or “yay duck”/“yuck duck” of their week? If you'd like a prompting question for discussion, you can use the one below:

SAY: *Have you ever won a game or won a prize that you weren't expecting to win? How did winning make you feel?*

ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead children to choose a desk and give them **an Activity Page and markers** (in Activity Box). You can also give them blank paper to draw or some playdough (in Teacher Box) if you prefer.

SAY: *God chose a man named Gideon to deliver His people from their enemy. In our story today, we will see that Gideon learned that victory comes from God alone.*

REVIEW CLASSROOM RULES

Post the **Rules Poster** (in Activity Box) somewhere in the room.

1. **Be kind and respectful:** to your friends and teachers. Raise your hand and wait to be called; speak kindly to one another; use words and actions that build up and do not tear down; etc.
2. **Have a heart of obedience:** Listen to your teachers' instructions and obey fully, quickly, and joyfully!
3. **Have self control:** Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself; keep all chair legs on the ground; no running or rough housing. Do not touch one another; let's not poke each other, hit, kick, etc.

Group Activity | 9:10/9:15 am

DIMINISH THE ARMY

Form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each group with a **bag of 100 cotton balls** (in Activity Box). Tell kids that you will call out a number, and they must remove cotton balls until they reach that number. When groups reach the correct number, tell them to shout “victory comes from God.” The first group to do so will win a point. Call out the numbers 80, 50, 25, 10, and 5 (or you can do simpler numbers if needed). The team with the most points wins.

SAY *Today, we will learn how a man named Gideon was chosen by God to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites. But rather than take an enormous army to fight against Midian, God told Gideon to remove warriors. We'll see that God's people could not boast in their own strength and how Gideon learned that **victory comes from God alone**.*

Lesson | 9:20 am

Ask students to return to their desks and pass out **Bibles** (in Teacher Box). Let them know of your expectations during the lesson: listening to the teacher, sitting quietly with hands and feet to themselves, etc.

1. Introduce the Lesson + Pray

SAY Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and I will be your teacher for the next few months. I am glad to see you! If you have your Bibles with you, please take them out. *[Distribute Bibles to kids who need one - in Teacher Box.]*

The Bible is different from any other book we read. All the stories we read in the Bible are true; they really happened. God reveals Himself to us through His Word. Today, we will see how **God alone gave His people victory in battle and that He gives us victory over sin**.

As we hear our story, we'll see how Gideon learned that **victory comes from God alone**. Let's prepare our hearts to hear our Bible story. Pray with me.

2. Catechism Question

Use the **Catechism Question** posters to review previous questions and learn the new one for this week (in Activity Box).

SAY: *Today, we are going to start learning a new catechism question. These questions help us to remember big important truths that we learn in the Bible. Last year, a lot of our questions were about God like, Who created everything? This semester we are going to learn questions about what the Bible says about us as people.*

Q) What is sin?

A) Sin is going our own way instead of going God's way.

Isaiah 53:6 says that we are all like sheep and we have gone astray from our good shepherd. Instead of listening to and following God's law and heart, we go our own way by choosing to sin and disobey God's commands.

Let's review the question again:

Q) What is sin?

A) Sin is going our own way instead of going God's way.

3. Using Bibles

SAY: *Today, we will be in the book of Judges. You ended last year learning about the judge, Deborah. Today we will learn about a judge named Gideon. Judges is the seventh book in the Old Testament.*

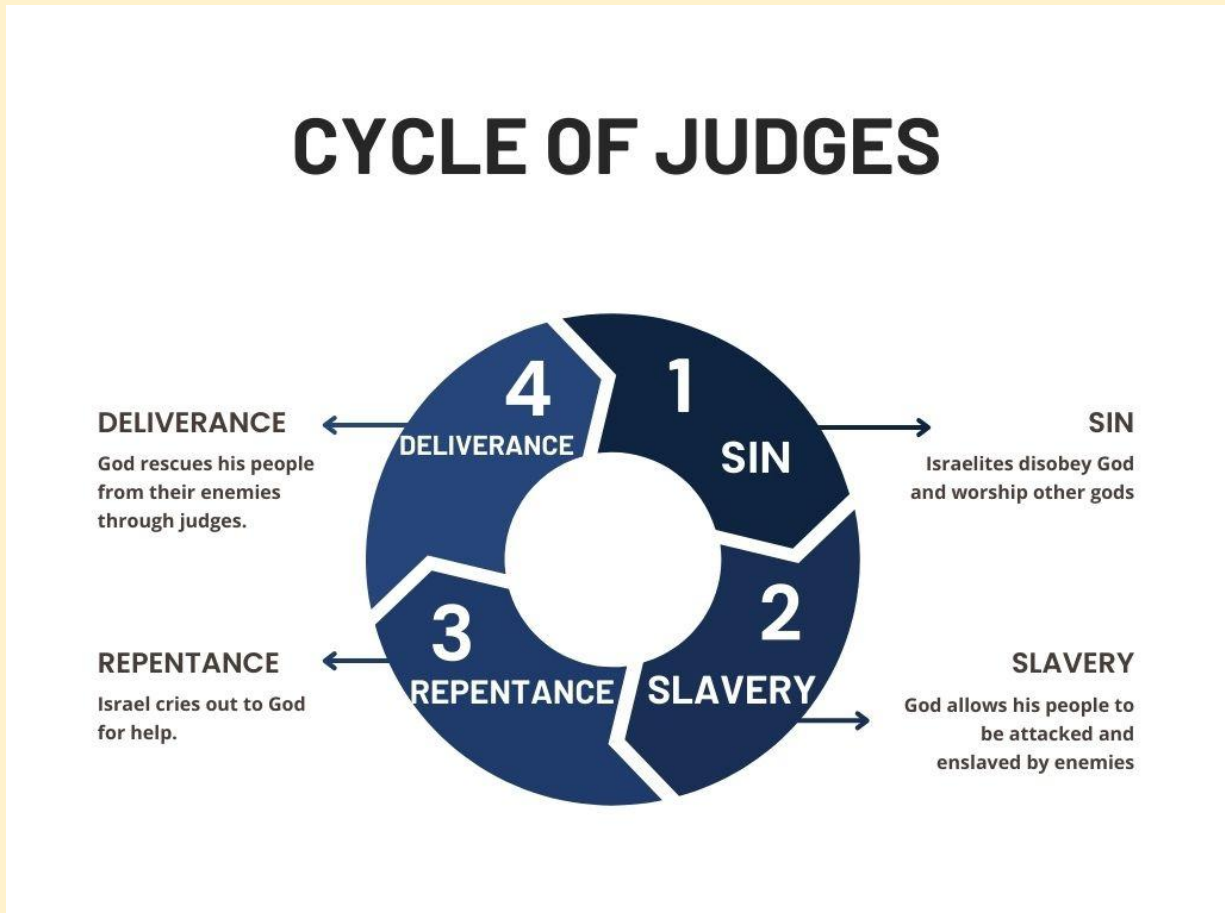
1. *Turn to the Table of Contents at the front of your Bibles and look under the Old Testament category to find the book of JUDGES. Turn to that page number.*
2. *Once you've found Judges, I would like you to find chapter 7.*

4. Tell the Bible Story

Open your **Bible** to **JUDGES 6** and ask children to turn in their Bibles.

GIDEON LED ISRAEL

We will see in the book of Judges a pattern or cycle (you can show kids the cycle poster from the Activity Box):



1. **SIN:** First, the Israelites would sin. They would disobey God and worship idols.
2. **SLAVERY:** So, God would allow the Israelites to be attacked and enslaved by surrounding enemies.
3. **REPENTANCE:** The Israelites would then repent of their sin and cry out to God for help.
4. **DELIVERANCE:** God would send a judge to rescue his people from the enemy.

Listen closely to the story and notice how you see this cycle:



The Israelites continued to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord. So, the Lord handed them over to the Midianites, who destroyed the Israelites' crops and took their livestock. God's people cried out to the Lord.

The angel of the Lord appeared to a man named Gideon. The angel said, "The Lord is with you, brave warrior. I am sending you to rescue My people from Midian."

"But how can I do that?", asked Gideon. "I am from the weakest family in Israel, and I am the youngest man in my family."

God said, "I will be with you, and you will have victory." God also told him to tear down places of worship to two false gods: Baal and Asherah.

The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew the ram's horn and God's people came to meet him and fight the Midianites. Gideon said to God, "I will put a wool fleece on the ground. If in the morning, there is dew on the fleece, but the ground is dry, then I will know that you will give Israel victory." When he woke, the fleece was wet, and the ground was dry.

Again, Gideon said to God, "Don't be angry with me, but let me make one more test. This time, let the fleece be dry and the ground be wet." That night, God did as Gideon requested. The fleece was dry, and the ground was wet with dew. So, the army went to fight the Midianites.

Before Israel began to fight, the Lord said to Gideon. "You have too many troops. If you fight with this many people, Israel will think they defeated the Midianites on their own. They need to know that I am the One who gives them victory." So, Gideon told anyone who was fearful of the battle to go home. Twenty-two thousand troops left, and ten thousand remained.

The Lord said, "There are still too many troops. Take them down to the water, and everyone who laps water like a dog will stay to fight the battle." After this test, only three hundred troops remained.

Then the Israelites surrounded the Midianite camp. They blew their trumpets and made a great noise, shouting, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" The Midianites were confused and scared; they turned on each other with their swords. God's people won the battle.

4. Christ Connection

SAY: *God is the one who gives victory. Gideon could have never won the battle without God's power. Victory came from God alone. We cannot save ourselves from sin. Only Jesus can save us from our sin.*

Review & Video | 9:30 am

Bible Story Video

If you'd like, watch the **Bible lesson video** on the YouTube app on the TV (*YouTube account should be Fellowship Kids* (switch accounts on the top of the left sidebar if not) > go to Library on the left side bar > Choose Playlists on the top > choose your classroom).

Review the Bible Story

Invite children to **open their Bibles to JUDGES 7:2-7.**

SAY - Let's review a section of scripture from our Bible lesson today. Please turn to **JUDGES 7:2-7. Select a volunteer to read the passage. Next, have another volunteer read JUDGES 7:19-22.**

- 1. Who was the judge that God used to deliver his people in the story today?**
 - a. *Gideon.*
- 2. Was Gideon confident or nervous about leading the army?**
 - a. *He was very nervous and scared. He kept asking God for multiple signs that He would help them to win the battle.*
- 3. What is something we learn about God in these verses?**
 - a. *God gives his people victory and God can win however He wants! God wanted to show the Israelites that he is the one who fights for them. And he fights for us too! No one is too strong for our God.*
- 4. Are there any commands or examples to follow in this passage? Where do you see obedience?**
 - a. *Yes, Gideon obeyed God and led the Israelite army into battle. Even though there were only 300 men, they trusted God and went to the enemy camp.*

Pray

Ask students if they have any **prayer requests**. Pray about what you learned in the lesson and for any requests.

Memory Verse | 9:35 am

Show the **memory verse poster** (in Activity Box). Open your Bible to **PHILIPPIANS 4:19** and lead the kids to read the verses together. You can also write the verse on the whiteboard so that children can see it more clearly.

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus”

- **PHILIPPIANS 4:19**

ERASE A WORD

Print the whole memory verse and reference on the whiteboard. Have the children repeat it aloud several times, then start randomly erasing words, one at a time, and have the children continue to recite it. You can repeat until the whole verse is erased.

SAY: *God gave Gideon and his army victory; He supplied the win! God also gives us all we need to have victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ.*

Extra Time Activity

PASS THE TEST

Tell kids they are going to be given three tests. Explain that while they complete the tests no one can talk. Guide kids to complete each of the following tests:

- Line up in order of shortest to tallest
- Form the letter “A” with their bodies laying on the floor
- Form a circle, alternating some kids facing inward and other facing outward

SAY *How was it trying to perform each test without talking? [Allow responses.] In our Bible story, Gideon tested God and asked Him to perform miraculous actions. Gideon tested God because he wanted to know if God really would give him victory in battle. However, we don't need to test God, because He is always true to His Word and we can trust Him at all times.*

Dismissal | 9:50 am

As parents arrive,

- Match the 4 digit code on the parent's tag to the child's tag
- Check out the child on the tablet by clicking the check box to the left of their name on the roster.
- **Give feedback!** Tell parents how the student did that morning.

Clean Up

- Wipe down tables if any messes were made with activities. [Magic eraser sponges can erase markings on desks.]
- Put teacher and activity items back in the Activity Box or Teacher Box.
- Place the TV remote in the white holder on the dry erase board.
- Return the small Activity Box, class tablet, and your lanyards to the check-in desk.