



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Gideon, Big Heroes are confident in God's power.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of following God with confidence.

KEY PASSAGE:

Judges 7. Gideon Goes Into Battle.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

God called Gideon to lead the Israelites in battle against their enemies. In order to show that their victory would be from God and not men, God gave some strange instructions to Gideon. Gideon followed with confidence. He was confident in God, the one who held the success of the Israelites in his hand. When we follow God with confidence, we can be heroes like Gideon.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

You have big plans for each of us. Whatever happens along the way, help us to have confidence in you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

"A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. Let us keep on running the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

LARGE GROUP:

Choose four kids who think they know the verse. Line them up on stage. Have the kids recite the memory verse, with each kid saying one word, starting left to right. When you get to the kid on the right, go back to the kid on the far left. Keep going until they get through the whole verse.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids create a picture puzzle that spells out the memory verse. Write the memory verse on a piece of paper. Give the kids 3-5 minutes to decorate the page with something that reminds them of the memory verse. Then cut the page into puzzle pieces, mix the pieces up and let the kids put the puzzle back together.



SKIT

DAMSEL IN DISTRESS: CONFIDENCE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Black outfit, for villain
Rope

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Damsel
Villain
Potential Hero

Our Damsel is on the railroad tracks tied up with rope. The Villain stands over her.

VILLAIN: I've got you now, Damsel.

DAMSEL: Untie me at once, cruel villain.

VILLAIN: Never. I've got you right where I want you on these train tracks. Soon the train will come and then no one and nothing will stop me from taking over the whole town.

DAMSEL: Help! Help! Save me.

VILLAIN: Scream all you want, Damsel. There's no one to save you. I'll be right back, I'm double parked.

Villain exits.

DAMSEL: Can no one save me? Are there any heroes left in this town?

Potential Hero enters.

SKIT

PH: Hey.

DAMSEL: Oh, thank goodness. My hero has come at last to save me.

PH: He has? Oh, better get out of his way then.

DAMSEL: I was talking about you.

PH: Me? A hero.

DAMSEL: Yes.

PH: I don't know if I would consider myself a hero.

DAMSEL: Well, if you untie me, you'd be my hero.

PH: I always think of heroes as being big strapping guys. Really strong. And able to run really fast, too.

DAMSEL: To be a hero, you just have to perform a heroic act. Like untying me from this train track.

PH: And then you've got your superheroes that fly and see through walls. I definitely can't do any of those things.

DAMSEL: Who can, really?

PH: So I feel like I'm not really a hero at all.

DAMSEL: Do you know what you need?

PH: What?

DAMSEL: Confidence.

PH: Confidence?

DAMSEL: Sure. You seem like a great guy. I can't really see you too well, my being tied up and all, but you seem like a pretty strong fellow. But also light on your feet. You've definitely proven that you're a man who thinks things through. Those are all pretty hero-worthy qualities in my book.

PH: Thanks.

SKIT

DAMSEL: The only thing that's keeping you from being a hero is a little confidence.

PH: You know what? I think you're right. I am pretty great.

DAMSEL: Absolutely.

PH: I've got a good head on my shoulders. I'm brave. I'm strong. I've got good hygiene.

DAMSEL: I'm not sure you need that last one to be a hero.

PH: I'm a great guy. A terrific specimen. A true hero.

DAMSEL: Now you're talking.

PH: And you've given me the confidence I needed to see all of that. Thank you.

DAMSEL: You're welcome.

PH: And now, there's just one thing left to do. Go out and save the world.

Potential Hero rushes off stage.

DAMSEL: Hey wait! What about untying me. *(beat)* He's gone. These days a good hero is so hard to find.

End.



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

GPS device

I don't know if any of you have ever used one of these, but I bet you can tell me what it is and what it's used for.

Show them the GPS. Give the kids an opportunity to tell you what the object is.

This is a GPS. If I type in the location of a place that I want to go, it will tell me exactly how to get to it. As I'm driving along in my car, the GPS will tell me when I need to turn left or when I need to turn right. It tells me when I need to get onto the interstate and when I need to get off at the next exit.

I follow with confidence what the GPS says because it has proven in the past that it can get me where I need to go. It might not always get me there in the quickest time or by the shortest route, but I know that it will get me where I need to go.

When we follow God, we can do so with confidence. He knows when we should move straight ahead or turn back. He has big plans for us and he knows how to get us to them. And he will always do it in the right time and in the right way.

Great heroes follow God with confidence. And they get to where they need to go.



LARGE GROUP GAME

KNOCK DOWN

ITEMS NEEDED:

Ten empty soda cans
Ping pong balls
Table

INSTRUCTIONS:

On a table, stack the soda cans in a pyramid – four on the bottom, three on the next level and so on.

Choose as many kids as you have time for. Have kids stand on one side of the stage and hurl their “troops” (ping pong balls) at the “enemy forces” (the soda cans). The kid who knocks down all of the cans in the fewest number of throws is the winner.

VARIATION:

For an added challenge, use something heavier than empty cans – like canned vegetables. If you go this route, use bean bags instead of ping pong balls.

WHAT’S THE POINT?

Gideon’s troops were severely outnumbered by the enemy troops. But Gideon had confidence in God, and the Israelites were victorious.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Gideon, Big Heroes are confident in God's power.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of following God with confidence.

KEY PASSAGE:

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INTRO

We all have heroes. People that we admire, look up to, want to be like. People who have done amazing things and possess amazing qualities. Those qualities are what we call virtues. Virtues like obedience, humility, and commitment.

Another quality that heroes need to have is confidence. When a firefighter heads into a burning building, he must do it with confidence. He knows that cowering in fear will only get him into trouble. When a soldier heads into battle, he must act confidently. Hesitation could cost him his life and lives of his comrades.

Gideon was a judge and leader of the people during the time before Israel had a king. God told Gideon to go into battle against the army of Midian. And he did so with confidence. Not confidence in himself. Or confidence in his soldiers. But confidence in God. The one who had promised to give victory in the battle.

And as we're about to learn, it was a very strange battle indeed.

READ Judges 7.

MAIN POINT

Now, I don't know if you know much about war strategy, but it's generally considered a good idea to have as many troops as you can get. The more people you have fighting for you, the better it is.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

But when God saw the 32,000 men assembled to fight for Israel, he told Gideon there were too many.

So Gideon told the men that if there was anyone afraid, they could go home. Of the 32,000 men there, 22,000 left. That's a big hit to your numbers. But then again, it probably wasn't such a bad idea to weed out the men who are afraid. You want your soldiers to go into battle with confidence.

But God still told Gideon that 10,000 was too many men. That's because victory was not going to come from Israel's superior might; victory would come from God and God alone. He wanted to show his great might by delivering Midian into the hands of a small group of Israelite men.

So Gideon followed God's instructions with confidence, winnowing down the troops from 10,000 all the way down to 300. And when it was time for battle, Gideon did something very strange. What did he put into the hands of the men? Not a sword to fight and a shield to protect. No, he put a trumpet in one hand and a jar in the other. Inside each jar was a torch.

The men surrounded the camp of Midian. At Gideon's signal, the men blew their trum-pets. Then they smashed their jars, revealing the light of the torches inside. Suddenly, the once still countryside was now filled with the blaring of trumpets and the sight of fire.

The Midianites were sent into immediate confusion. They turned on each other and started to attack each other. Then they fled.

Because of Gideon's confidence in God, he followed God's instructions fully. He knew that the victory would be his, because God said it would be.

DRIVE IT HOME

Are you confident? What is your confidence in? Some people have a lot of stuff and they believe they always will. They always have the latest toys and electronics. They put their confidence in their wealth and their possessions.

Some people put their confidence in their intelligence. They do well in school. They always know the answer and they trust themselves to be able to think their way out of any situation. Others are people persons. They have lots of friends. They put their confidence in the fact that others will help them out when the hard times come.

Don't get me wrong, it's great to have friends and to be smart. And there's nothing wrong with having nice things. But, we shouldn't put our confidence in those things. When the tough times come, those are not the things that will see us through.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Like Gideon, our confidence needs to be in God. It wasn't Gideon's might that won the victory for him. It was the power of God. Gideon only used 300 men to defeat the Midianite army. In fact, he could have defeated them with 3 men, if that's what God had instructed. Because the victory came from God.

All of us have struggles and God wants us to have victory over them. But the victory does not come from us. It comes from God. Put your confidence in him, and you will see him do amazing things.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

You have big plans for each of us. Whatever happens along the way, help us to have confidence in you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

If you were at a river without a cup, how would you take a drink?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Have the kids create a picture puzzle that spells out the memory verse. Write the memory verse on a piece of paper. Give the kids 3-5 minutes to decorate the page with something that reminds them of the memory verse. Then cut the page into puzzle pieces, mix the pieces up and let the kids put the puzzle back together.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Create trumpets by rolling up construction paper into a cone and taping it into place. Have a contest to see who can blare the loudest.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Judges 7.

Why did God tell Gideon he had too many men in his army?

Why did the first 22,000 soldiers go home?

What did Gideon hear when he snuck into the Midianite camp?

What did Gideon's men carry into battle?

What does it mean to have confidence in God?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Give us confidence in you. You are our sword and shield and our victory.

In Jesus' name, Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

If you were at a river without a cup, how would you take a drink?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Have the kids create a picture puzzle that spells out the memory verse. Write the memory verse on a piece of paper. Give the kids 3-5 minutes to decorate the page with something that reminds them of the memory verse. Then cut the page into puzzle pieces, mix the pieces up and let the kids put the puzzle back together.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Create trumpets by rolling up construction paper into a cone and taping it into place. Have a contest to see who can blare the loudest.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Judges 7.

Why did God tell Gideon he had too many men in his army?

Why did the first 22,000 soldiers go home?

What did Gideon gain by sneaking into the Midianite camp?

Why did Gideon's men hide their torches in empty jars?

How can you have confidence in God?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Give us confidence in you. You are our sword and shield and our victory.

In Jesus' name, Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK

Twenty-two thousand men left Gideon because they were _____.

AFRAID

Gideon only kept the 300 men who lapped their water like a _____.

DOG

While in the Midianite camp, Gideon heard one soldier describe his _____ to another soldier.

DREAM

The Israelites hid their torches inside of _____.

JARS

Gideon was victorious because his _____ was in God.

CONFIDENCE



MAKE IT STICK

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

Bible Heroes Lesson 7

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: GIDEON



IN THE CAR:

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

Today we learned that big heroes have confidence in God. Gideon went confidently into battle because God told him that the victory would be his. Gideon had confidence even when his troops were winnowed down from 32,000 to just 300 men. Gideon had confidence even while his soldiers carried trumpets and jars into battle instead of swords and shield. And just as God said, the Israelites won the battle. If we have confidence in God like Gideon, we can have victory too.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Make a "confidence list" with your kids of things that they know to be true, like "My parents will always love me, no matter what." Help direct your kids towards confidences of a spiritual nature.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did God tell Gideon that he had too many men in his army?
- What happened when the Israelites blared their trumpets and broke their jars?
- How can we have confidence in God?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Who or what do you put your confidence in? This would be a good time to examine what gives you the most comfort and makes you feel the most secure. Ask God for help as you seek to redirect your energies towards him.

Word Search

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

Gideon

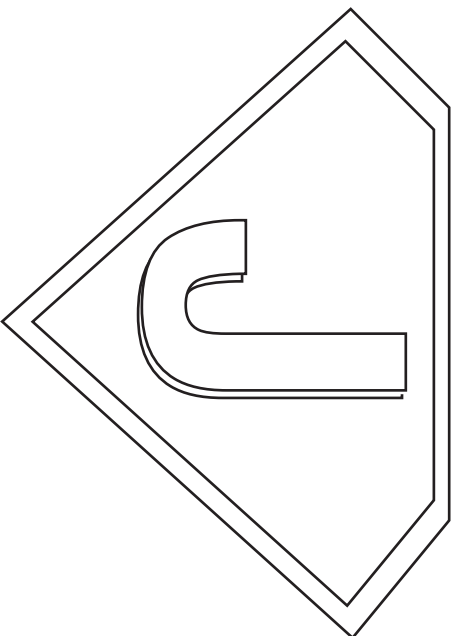
Midian

Torch

Jar

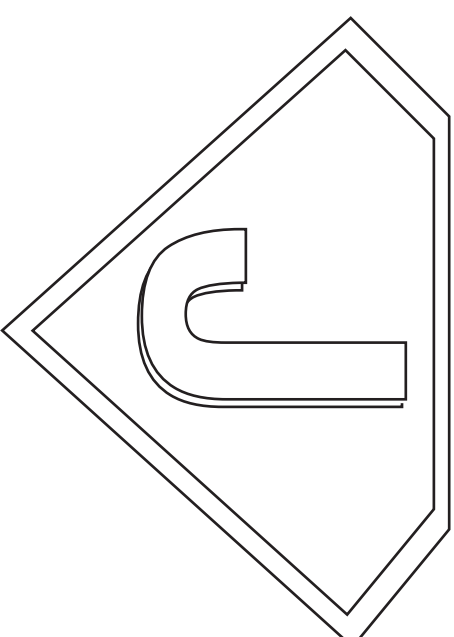
Dream

Confident



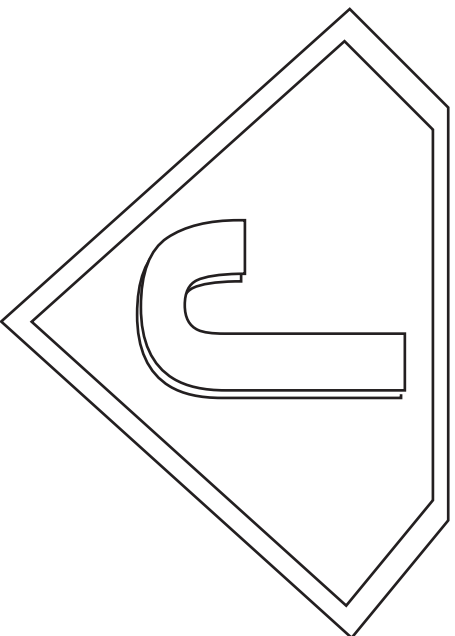
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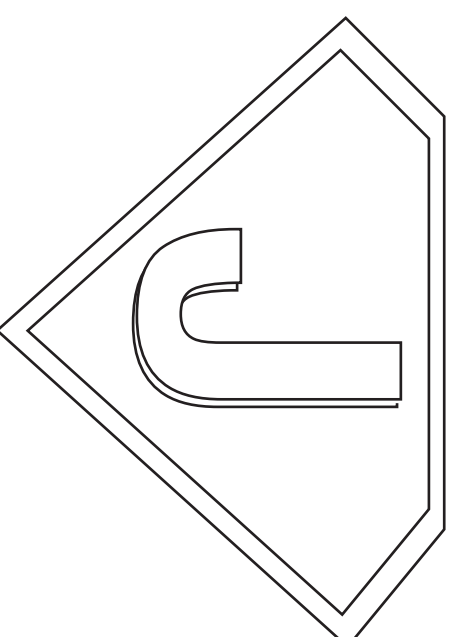
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