

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

When we trust God, he is able to work things out for our good.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to trust God to do his work in their lives.

KEY PASSAGE:

Judges 7:1-22, Gideon's Army

MEMORY VERSE:

"Every house is built by someone. But God is the builder of everything." -Hebrews 3:4 (NIRV)

SUMMARY:

When you get to building, the pieces just start to fall into place. Kids will learn that when they give everything to God, he makes all things work together perfectly.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Take our lives and make them something great. Put the pieces together for us according to your plan.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

MEMORY VERSE

"For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything." -Hebrews 3:4 (NIV)

"Every house is built by someone. But God is the builder of everything." -Hebrews 3:4 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room in half. Pick one side to start and have them all shout the first word, then the other side shouts the second word, and so on until they finish the verse.

SMALL GROUP:

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

SKIT

BUILDING AN ARMY

ITEMS NEEDED:

Binoculars, soldier's uniform,

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M

CHARACTERS:

Sarge- A Lego soldier

Ninja- A Lego ninja

Sarge enters with his binoculars.

SARGE: Look at 'em. They're sitting ducks, I tell ya. They don't stand a chance against us. Oh, you boys think you're big and bad, but I got news for you. We've got an army. And we're gonna roll right over you. Oh yeah. It's gonna be awesome. Everything is cool because we're part of the team. Hey, I should put that to music.

The Ninja enters.

NINJA: Hello, Sarge.

SARGE: Hello, Ninja man! I was just having a look at the enemy, sir.

NINJA: How's it look?

SARGE: Well, they've built a pretty big Lego fortress. I can see all our arch enemies down there too. Darth Vader, Dr. Doom, the Joker, the evil Lego Ninjas, evil Lego Knights.

NINJA: Yep, they're all down there.

SKIT

SARGE: Yeah, but we've got quite an army ourselves. Star Wars heroes, Ninja Turtles, DC Comic Heroes, Marvel Heroes, Ninjas, Soldiers, Good Knights. We're gonna rock those guys, aren't we?

NINJA: Boy, I hope so.

SARGE: What's the matter?

NINJA: Well, Sarge, about that army we had. We don't have it any more.

SARGE: We don't??

NINJA: The Ninja Turtles are gone. So are the Marvel Heroes, most of the DC Heroes, the Knights, the Soldiers, and most of the Star Wars guys.

SARGE: So what's that leave us with?

NINJA: Batman, a bunch of Ninjas, and the original trilogy Star Wars guys.

SARGE: Oh no!

NINJA: Oh yes!

SARGE: We can't go down there with Hans, Luke, Chewie, Batman, and a bunch of Ninjas.

NINJA: Don't forget Lando.

SARGE: Who cares about Lando? We're gonna get stomped!

NINJA: Relax, Sarge. The Lego Master is in control, and if he's calling the shots, I believe that some how, some way, we will win the day.

SARGE: Yeah, the Lego Master has never let us down before.

NINJA: Right. So let's go load up in our space ship, attack the fortress, and trust that everything will be awesome.

SARGE: Sounds great. Just one question. Can I stay here?

NINJA: Come on, Sarge, we've got a Lego battle to fight.

The Ninja drags Sarge off stage.

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEM NEEDED:

A jigsaw puzzle (48 pieces or less)

Spread the puzzle pieces in front of the kids and start piecing it together. Have some kids help.

Puzzles and Legos have a lot in common. Like a custom Lego kit, every piece of this puzzle has its proper place. It's slow going at first, because you have to spread the pieces out and get a look at everything. But the more you work at it, the more pieces just fall into place. Soon enough, you start to get a picture of what you're building. And before you know it, you're done.

Right now, God is building each one of us. Like a puzzle, or a Lego kit, he's putting our lives together one brick at a time. It's tempting to try and make the pieces all fit on our own. We think we see the big picture, and we want to rush God's work.

Don't get in a rush. Be patient. Let God do the building. Piece by piece, one brick at a time, he will reveal his plan for you.

God knows what he's doing and where he is taking you. He's seen the picture on the box of your life. Trust God, and God will fit the pieces together. One day at a time, one brick at a time.

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

LARGE GROUP GAME

HIGH TOWERS

ITEMS NEEDED:

A big box of Legos, two Lego building platforms

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game and give each one a building platform. Start the clock, and give the players 60 seconds to build a tower. At the end of 60 seconds, compare the two towers. The player with the tallest, standing tower wins.

If a tower topples before time expires or even after, measure the tower to the tallest brick left standing.

VARIATION:

Instead of Legos, you can do a building contest with cardboard brick blocks.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Let God build your life, one piece at a time, and he will build it right.

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

When we trust God, he is able to work things out for our good.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to trust God to do his work in their lives.

KEY PASSAGE:

Judges 7:1-22, Gideon's Army

INTRO

Last week we started talking about Legos, and we talked about following directions. When you're building a Lego kit from instructions, it can be frustrating at first, but the more you build, the easier it gets. The pieces on the table get to be fewer and fewer. It's easier to spot the pieces you need. The pieces come together faster. Before you know it, you've finished your Lego creation.

Strangely enough, the same thing happens when we freestyle, building cars and buildings and space ships without direction. At first we may not be sure what we're building, but as our creation starts to take shape, it gets easier. We know what piece we need next. We know where we're going. We can see the final product before we even get there.

The whole Lego building process is a good picture of what God is doing in our lives every day. God is our Creator, just as we create our own Lego worlds and objects. God has a plan for each one of us, just as we have plans for our creations. But God's creations don't come together all at once. He puts his creations together one piece at a time. Minute by minute, day by day, brick by brick, God is building each one of us into who he wants us to be.

The difference between Legos and us is that Legos don't meddle. Legos don't try to add pieces on their own or rush the project. We do it all the time. We try to tell God what we want. We try to work things out on our own rather than letting God do his work.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

We need to trust in God and let him do all the building.

One man who learned to let God be the builder was Gideon. God called Gideon to raise an army and save Israel, but this was no ordinary army. God had a specific vision for the army that Gideon would lead. God insisted Gideon build his way, and when Gideon let God do the work, God did a miracle.

READ JUDGES 7:1-22

MAIN POINT

There's an ancient book called the Art of War that teaches armies and generals a lot of lessons about war. One of the chief lessons is this: don't go into battle with fewer soldiers than your enemy. If you don't outnumber your enemy, run!

Gideon raised an army of 32,000 men. That's a pretty big army! But God said he had too many men for the battle. Gideon sorted his men and sent 22,000 home, leaving him with only 10,000. God said he still had too many. Eventually, Gideon was down to a meager 300 men, not nearly enough to face the hordes that had come to attack Israel.

It seemed crazy to everyone involved that God would only allow Gideon 300 men, but God had a plan to defeat the enemy. That plan called for 300 men, no more. That's what Gideon took into battle, and that's what Gideon used to save Israel. Gideon won, not because he had the most men. He won because he let God build the army.

DRIVE IT HOME

Over and over, the Bible gives us stories about men and women who obeyed God and let God do the building in their lives. Sometimes God's directions seemed strange, but when those men and women obeyed God, they saw that God's way was the right one, no matter how strange it seemed to them.

God gave us these stories to teach us that we need to be just as obedient as the heroes of the faith. Like Gideon, we need to let God do the building. We need to trust God every step of the way. If God says to give the money you're saving for a bike to charity instead, give it. If God says to sit down next to the kid who just moved to your school, do it. If God says to offer to pray for a friend in need, speak up and do it.

God also wants us to take things one step at a time. He doesn't want us to rush Him or His plans. You can't skip steps building Legos, and you can't skip steps in your life. Be patient, let God do his work in his time.

God's ways may seem crazy to other people. They may seem crazy to you. But God's way is always the best way. Don't try to rush God's handiwork. Let God build your life, brick by brick, day by day. God will always work things out for the best.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Take our lives and make them something great. Put the pieces together for us according to your plan.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

What's your favorite thing to build with Legos?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 3:4

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Who can walk like a Lego person? See who does the best walking impression of a Lego person.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Judges 7:1-22

Who was Gideon?

How many men did Gideon originally have in his army?

How many men did Gideon take into battle?

What instructions did God give Gideon for the battle?

How did God defeat the army of Midian?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Teach us to be patient and to trust you with our lives. Thank you for working all things out for our good.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

What's your favorite thing to build with Legos?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 3:4

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Who can walk like a Lego person? See who does the best walking impression of a Lego person.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Judges 7:1-22

How many men did Gideon take into battle?

What instructions did God give Gideon for the battle?

How did God defeat the army of Midian?

Why do we need to be patient as God builds our lives?

What can we do to trust our lives to God?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Teach us to be patient and to trust you with our lives. Thank you for working all things out for our good.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

1. Gideon raised an army of _____ men.
A. 100
B. 10,000
C. 32,000*
2. God made Gideon reduce the size of his army to _____ men.
A. 10,000
B. 1000
C. 300*
3. Gideon's army went into battle carrying torches, trumpets, and _____.
A. clay jars*
B. swords
C. shields
4. Gideon won the battle because he
A. caught a lucky break.
B. trusted God to build his army.*
C. outnumbered the enemy two to one.
5. God builds our lives
A. one brick at a time.*
B. all at once.
C. before we are born.

MAKE IT STICK

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER



IN THE CAR:

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

When you get to building, the pieces just start to fall into place. Kids will learn that when they give everything to God, he makes all things work together perfectly. Judges 7:1-22, Gideon's Army



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Sit down and play Legos with the kids. Decide what you are going to build together, and then watch that building take shape. How is building Legos like letting God build our lives?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What kind of army did God build for Gideon?
- How did God use Gideon's army to defeat Midian?
- How does God build our lives?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

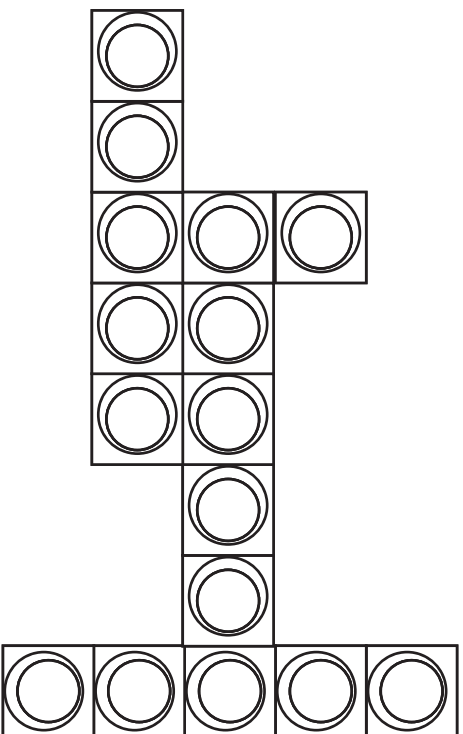
"Every house is built by someone. But God is the builder of everything." -Hebrews 3:4 (NIRV)



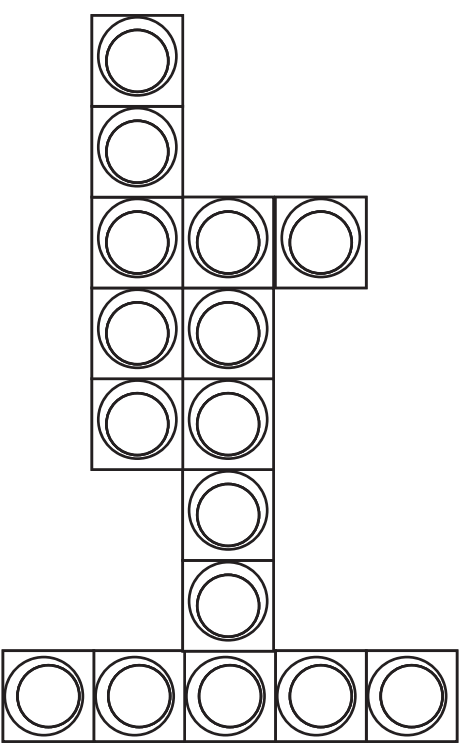
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

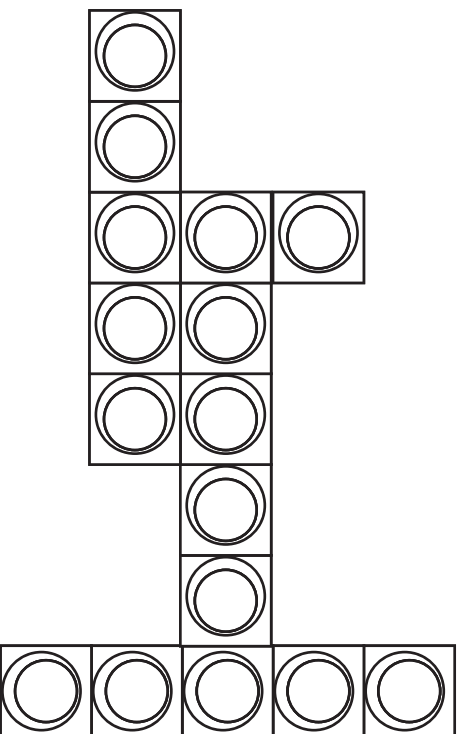
God wants us to trust him to reveal who we are and what his plan is for us one step at a time. Pray for your kids to be patient and obedient as God continues his good work in their lives, and pray that God will give you the same patience as he works on your life.



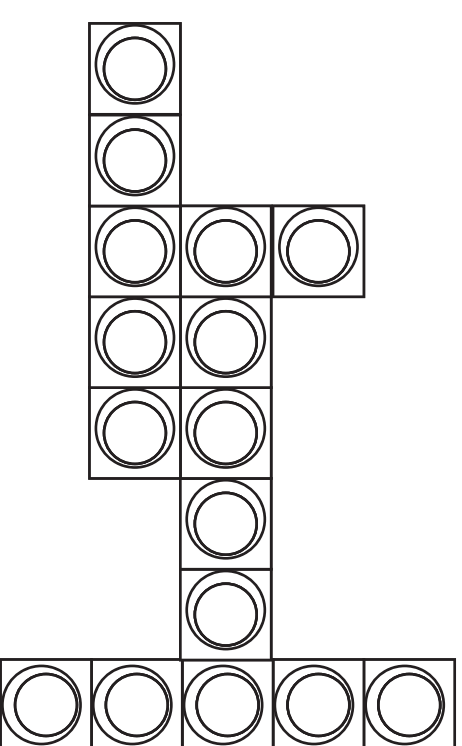
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SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have each kid draw and decorate a puzzle piece or trace a piece from a puzzle box as a reminder that God is building our lives piece by piece.