

Gideon—The Boy Who Obeyed

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY Learning To Trust	5	1–6			masking tape, two volunteers –one male, one female
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON Gideon—The Boy Who Obeyed	8	1–6			large empty can/paper bucket, kazoo/plastic party horn, small flashlight/glow stick, fleece
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	5	1–6		 A	clothespins
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 Trust Wall	6	1–6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 Gideon Trust Pennant	5	1–6		 B	
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM God Is Always With Us	7	1–6			
<input type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
Good, Gideon	5	1–2			
Gideon's Victory	5	3–4			
Gideon	5	5–6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSPEAK	5	1–2			
iSPEAK	5	3–4			
iSPEAK	5	5–6			

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand the importance of obeying God. Through Gideon's example, junior soldiers will learn what it means to trust God and obey His commands.

YOU ARE HERE!



Place the timeline marker on **1470 B.C.** on the **Old Testament** timeline.

*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

BIBLE REFERENCES:

This lesson is based on the following Bible references:

Judges 6-8

UNIT AIM:

This unit will introduce junior soldiers to four people from the Old Testament who are powerful examples for young people. Junior soldiers will learn the importance of relying on God, listening to God, following His guidance, and having complete trust in Him.

BEFORE KINGS RULED the Israelites, judges led the people. The judges of Israel were servants of God. They followed God, tried to help the Israelites follow God as well, and fought the enemies of the Israelites. Twelve different judges led Israel before Samuel anointed the first king, Saul.

One of the 12 judges was a boy named Gideon. Gideon was the son of Joash and Deborah (a judge). While Gideon was hiding in the winepress to separate the wheat so it wouldn't be stolen, God called to him. God told Gideon that He wanted him to lead the Israelites to victory over their enemies, the Midianites. The Midianites were destroying the land. They were taking all of the crops and livestock. God chose Gideon to defeat the Midianites.

Gideon was skeptical—he didn't fully believe that God wanted him to complete this task; he didn't think he was prepared. Gideon asked God for a sign. He said, "'You promised you would use me to save Israel. Please do something for me. I'll put a piece of wool on the threshing floor. Suppose dew is only on the wool tomorrow morning. And supposed the ground all around it is dry. Then I will know that you will use me to save Israel. I'll know that your promise will come true'" (Judges 6:36-37 NIV).

The next morning when Gideon woke up, the fleece was wet with dew and the ground was dry. Gideon still wasn't certain, so he asked God to give him another sign. He said, "'Don't let your anger burn against me. Let me ask you for just one more thing. Let me use the wool for one more test. This time make the wool dry. And cover the ground with dew'" (Judges 6:39).

In the morning, the fleece was dry and the ground was wet. Gideon gathered the men of Israel to go into battle, but God told him not to take all the men with him. Gideon took the men down to the river where God separated the men. Those who knelt down to drink were sent home. Those who brought the water to their mouths with their hands to drink went into battle. Of the 32,000 men who wanted to fight, God told Gideon to take 300 with him into battle. He went into battle with 300 men, each carrying a horn, an empty jar, and a torch. Gideon and his small army defeated the Midianites as God promised.



OPENING ACTIVITY
Learning To Trust 

For this activity, you'll need two teenage or adult volunteers to serve as catchers, preferably one male and one female. Place a strip of masking tape about two feet in front of each volunteer. Ask boy junior soldiers to line up in front of the male volunteer, and girl junior soldiers to line up in front of the female volunteer.

Instruct junior soldiers to turn their backs toward the volunteer and fall straight back into the volunteer's arms. Allow each junior soldier to participate in the trust fall.

Say: **How did it feel to fall backward without looking?** (Allow response.) **Did you know for sure that the catcher would keep you from falling on the floor?** (Allow response.) **Did you trust the catcher on the first try, or did you have to try a second time?** (Allow response.)

Say: **Today we're going to talk about a boy who had to learn to trust God. God asked him to do something difficult, and he had a hard time trusting God.**

LESSON
Gideon—The Boy Who Obeyed  

Gather the following supplies for each junior soldier: a large empty can or paper bucket (fried chicken or popcorn buckets will work), kazoo or plastic party horn, small flashlight or glow stick, markers, construction paper, and glue.

During the lesson, allow the junior soldiers to decorate their can/bucket to resemble a jug.

Say: **Has anyone ever asked you to do something that you didn't think you could do?** (Allow response.) **What if I asked _____** (insert a junior soldier's name) **to lead our class next week, could you do it? Why or why not?** (Allow response.)

Say: **In the Old Testament, there's a story of a young man who had a hard time believing that he could do what God asked him to do. His name was Gideon.**

Say: **Gideon and his family lived in Israel, in a place that was being destroyed by a group of people called the Midianites. The Midianites destroyed the crops and took the animals that belonged to the Israelites.**

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- masking tape
- two volunteers: one male, one female

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- cans/paper buckets
- glow sticks/small flashlights
- kazoos/plastic horns
- construction paper
- scissors
- glue
- markers/crayons
- fleece



One day, while Gideon was hiding in the winepress to separate wheat so it wouldn't be stolen, God called him to lead the Israelites in battle against the Midianites.

What would you do if God asked you to do something scary? (Allow response.) **The idea of leading an army was scary for Gideon. He didn't think he was a good leader. He asked God to give him a sign to prove that God wanted him to lead the army.**

Gideon laid a piece of fleece on the ground. (Lay a piece of wet fleece on the floor.) **He said to God, "Tonight, make this fleece wet, but keep the ground dry." When Gideon woke up the next day, the fleece was wet.** (Allow junior soldiers to feel the fleece. Place a dry piece of fleece on the floor.)

However, Gideon still wasn't convinced. He said to God, "Let me ask You for one more test. Tonight, keep the fleece dry, but make the ground around it wet." When Gideon woke up, he went to touch the fleece. The fleece was dry, and the ground was wet. (Allow junior soldiers to feel the fleece.) **Gideon was convinced that God wanted him to lead the army.**

Gideon gathered 32,000 men to go to battle with him against the Midianites. God told Gideon not to take so many men with him. Gideon took the men down to the river. The men who knelt down on the ground to drink were sent home. There were 300 men who brought the water to their mouths with their hands to drink. These men were selected by God to go into battle with Gideon.

By now, junior soldiers should have finished decorating their cans/buckets. Instruct junior soldiers to activate their flashlights/glow sticks and place them on the table under the cans/buckets.

Say: **Most battles take place during the day.** (Turn off the lights.) **A sneak attack at night was a shock to the enemy. Gideon trusted God, and did what God told him to do. Gideon divided the men into three groups. They surrounded the camp of the Midianites with their torches. They blew on their trumpets!** (Instruct junior soldiers to blow their kazoos.) **They smashed their jars!** (Instruct junior soldiers to uncover their flashlights/glow sticks.) **They shouted the battle cry, "For the Lord and for Gideon!" The Midianite army was scared. They were confused and started fighting with each other. Eventually they all ran away.** (Turn the lights on.)

Because Gideon trusted God and obeyed His commands, Gideon helped the Israelites defeat the Midianites. God took care of Gideon and the Israelites because they trusted Him. God will take care of us too, if we trust in Him and obey His commands.



MEMORY VERSE
Judges 6:12 (NIV) 

“The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon. He said, *‘Mighty warrior, the Lord is with you.’*”

Review the verse.

Divide the junior soldiers into groups of four. Make one copy of  A for each team. Cut the strips of paper along the dotted line. Give each junior soldier one clothespin. Instruct junior soldiers to stand in a line, arms length apart. Place one set of verse papers at the feet of the first person on each team.

Say: **When I say “go,” the first person on your team will pick up one slip of paper with the clothespin, read it, and pass it to the next person who will take it with their clothespin. When the last person on your team has read the piece of the verse, they’ll put the paper down then run to the front of the line and pick up the next piece of the verse, and so on. The first team to finish and put the verse in order is the winner!**

Review the verse again.

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES
 (CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

Trust Wall (Option 1) 

Before class, tape several sheets of poster board to the wall, low enough for the smaller junior soldiers to reach. Invite junior soldiers to write comments or draw pictures about God and His faithfulness to those who trust and obey Him. Ask your corps officer for permission to display the poster board for everyone in the corps to see.

Play Song #45: “Trust In the Lord” (Track #45, *Great Big Praise* CD 1) while junior soldiers work on the “Trust Wall.”



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  A
- clothespins



The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- poster board
- markers/crayons
- tape
- Great Big Praise CD
- CD/Media player





MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  B
- scissors
- markers/crayons

Gideon Trust Pennant (Option 2)

Before class, make one copy of  B for each junior soldier. Allow junior soldiers to decorate  B by writing the memory verse on the fleece and coloring the picture. Review today's lesson as junior soldiers work on their projects. Encourage junior soldiers to place their pennant in a place where they'll see it, and be reminded of the story of Gideon.

WORSHIP PROGRAM

CHORUS: Song #3: "What a Mighty God We Serve"
(Track #3, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 91 (NIV)

CHORUS: Song #45: "Trust In the Lord"
(Track #45, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

DEVOTIONAL

God Is Always With Us

Say: **Mary perched on the edge of the bench in the train station. She felt like a big girl most of the time, but today she felt more like a very little girl. Her parents told her she was going to travel on the train to Kansas from Oklahoma all by herself. At first, she thought it'd be an adventure, but now that she was all alone, she felt scared.**

The waiting room seemed dark and lonely. She and the man sitting across from her were the only people in the room. Mary was hoping that they'd announce that it was time for her train so she could leave the waiting room.

The man sitting across from Mary looked at his watch. He smiled at Mary, but she acted as if she didn't see him. Her mom told her not to talk to strangers. He started to walk toward her, and Mary didn't know what to do. She saw a man sitting behind a window at the ticket counter talking on the phone.

Mary got up from the bench and walked to the ticket window. "Dear God," she prayed, "please help me. I know the man is trying to be friendly, but I am scared."



The man started to follow Mary. She started to walk faster, and he was walking faster. She tried to look out of the corner of her eye at him, but she couldn't tell where he was. Mary finally reached the ticket window and asked the man where her train was.

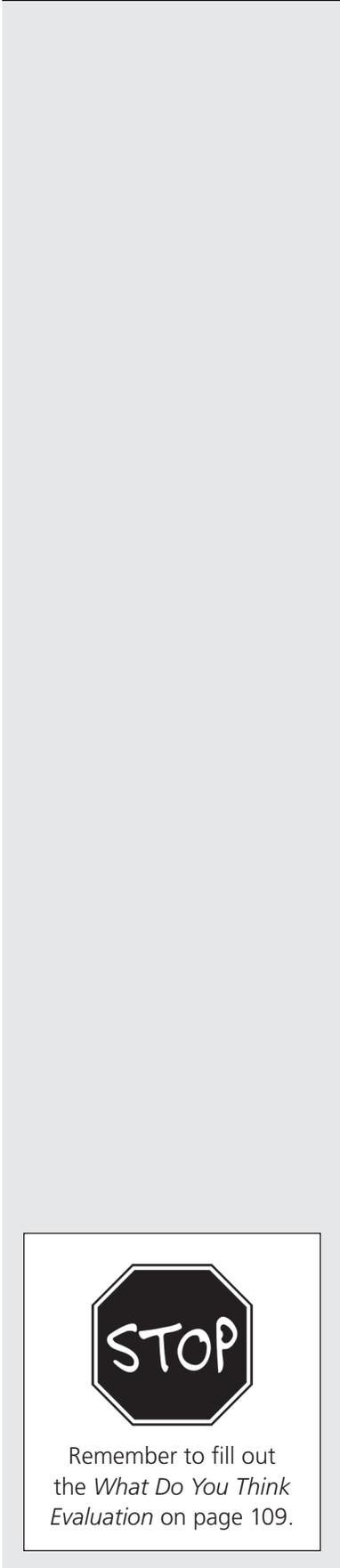
"Over there, to your right," the ticket man answered. "Are you alone?"

"No," said Mary, "I'm never alone, God is always with me."

"That's good," said the ticket man. "I hope you enjoy your trip," he said, "By the way, the man behind you is the conductor."

Mary was so glad that God was always with her. God is always with us too, in our hearts! He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of us, and to help us when we need Him.

PRAYER



Remember to fill out the *What Do You Think Evaluation* on page 109.

