



Preschool Ministry Curriculum for  
*August 14, 2016*

Dear Teacher,

This week we continue our summer curriculum, which is following the theme and preaching from the Sanctuary service. Just to note, we are a few weeks ahead of the Sanctuary service in case there is any confusion. This summer we will look back at most of the characters we studied this past year. The point of each lesson will center on the journey each person was on and how they ultimately looked to Jesus “as the author and perfecter of our faith.”

Today we learn about Gideon and how God used him to deliver His people from the Midianites. The Midianites were cruel to the Israelites destroying their food sources and possessions. God determines that He will use Gideon, 300 men, clay pots, trumpets, and torches to conquer an army that is clearly superior in every way. God wanted Gideon and the Israelites to know that they could fully trust Him to help them win the battle. God kept His promise to Gideon and to the Israelites. And God keeps His promises to us too! Even though we are weak, we know God is strong.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

**Lesson:** The Journey: Gideon

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God’s promises require faith especially since God’s promises do not happen immediately.

**Scripture:** Hebrews 11:32-33; Judges 6-8 (selected portions)

**Story:** Vos Children’s Bible, Chapter 61; Gospel StoryBook Bible, Pages 94-95; The Beginner’s Bible, Pages 142-147.

**Teaching Points:**

- To believe that God’s promises will come true is called faith.
- God’s promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps his promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God was with His people, the Israelites, and He never left them.
- God’s people had now entered the Promised Land, but the land was full of people that did not worship God and did not like God’s people.
- God’s people did not always worship God or follow His commands. God would discipline them.
- Sometimes Israel’s enemies would hurt them or rule over them. God would bring judges to rescue His people. Judges ruled over all of Israel.
- God made Gideon a judge to help rescue Israel from the Midianites.
- Gideon trusted God. Gideon led Israel’s army to victory over the Midianites.
- Israel defeated the Midianites with only a few men using no weapons at all.
- God chooses to use the weak to defeat the strong; He does this so we will only rely on Him.

## Preschool Ministry – Morning Overview

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

### First Hour

#### **Cherub Church**

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 169, 168, 167, 166, 165, 164)

*Craft:* Gideon's Torch

*Supplies:* 2 plastic cups, tea light, red, orange, and yellow tissue paper, tape

*Instructions:* Switch on tea light, place tea light in bottom of plastic cup, crumple tissue paper and place around light, tape second cup on top of filled cup.



#### **Snack**

### Second Hour

*Craft:* Trumpet

*Supplies:* Yellow paper, plastic horn, glue, tape, crayons/markers

*Instructions:* Have children decorate yellow paper, glue scalloped edges together, roll opposite end leaving room for horn piece, drop in horn, use tape to hold paper and horn in place.



**Story:** The Journey: Gideon

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, our story today has some very strange (or weird) events. God decides who should be in Israel's army by the way they drink water! Isn't that strange? God gives a man a dream about a loaf of bread smashing a tent! Isn't that strange? And God uses 300 men to conquer a much, much, much larger army! Wow, that sounds almost unbelievable, right? Let's find out more of what happens in our story today...
3. **TELL** the Story. When applicable or desired, use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

#### **Singing**

**Scripture Memory (Hebrews 12:1-2)**

**Catechism Questions (1-10)**

**Optional Activities**

### Scripture

#### **Hebrews 11:32-33**

Do I need to give more examples? I do not have time to tell you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through their faith they defeated kingdoms. They did what was right and received what God promised.

## Questions for Review

### Questions for Younger Children:

- What is the name of the leader of God's people?
- Who was Israel's enemy?
- Whose army was the biggest and strongest?
- How did Gideon know who should be in his army?

### Questions for Older Children:

- How did God help Gideon when he was afraid?
- Why did God allow the Midianites to defeat Israel?
- What plan did Gideon use to defeat the Midianites?
- How does God keep His promise to His people in this story?

## Scripture Memory for Summer:

### *2 and 3 year olds:*

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus." Hebrews 12:1-2

### *4 and 5 year olds:*

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:1-2

## Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*

## Story

### **The Journey**

Let us continue on our journey together. Remember, we actually won't go to a far land or country. And we won't have to pack up our suitcases or food, get in a car or plane and travel to some place across the world either. Nope, we will stay right here! This journey is special. This journey takes us into the Old Testament and we get to see how people trusted in Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Today in our journey, we learn that God's people lived during a time when very mean people hurt and robbed them. God's people would cry out for help and God would send someone to rescue His people. The rescuers were called judges. Gideon was a judge for God's people and God uses Gideon to lead His people into battle. But the way God commands His people to fight requires them to trust that God knows best. That God will use the weak to overcome the strong.

## **Gideon**

One day the Lord came and sat under an oak tree. There He found an Israelite man named Gideon. Gideon was busy hiding wheat so the Midianites couldn't find it to destroy it. The Midianites did not worship God and did not like God's people. The Midianites liked to destroy the wheat God's people were growing so God's people would not have any food to eat. The Midianites destroyed many things that God's people – the Israelites – owned. The Lord said to Gideon, "The Lord is with you and the Israelites. You must be a mighty warrior." "But sir," Gideon answered, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? It seems as if the Lord has just left us into the hands of the Midianites." The Lord then gave Gideon a very important message; "I am sending YOU to save Israel from the Midianites." "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? I am the weakest and least important of all." And then the Lord answered Gideon in words that I bet Gideon loved to hear. The Lord said, "I will be with you."

## **Choosing the Army**

Finally the time came when God decided that the wicked Midianites would no longer harm his people. Gideon called for all the soldiers to gather to fight against the Midianites. Quite a few soldiers came, 32,000 of them. But 32,000 soldiers really weren't too many soldiers when you remember that they were going to fight against the powerful and strong Midianite army. They had even more soldiers than Israel did. The Bible says the Lord looked at all the soldiers who had come to fight and He said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver the Midianites into their hands. Israel may be proud and boast and think that they were strong enough all by themselves. Israel may boast that her own strength is what saved her. So tell the soldiers that anyone of them who is afraid can leave." The Bible says when Gideon told the soldiers that any of them who were afraid could leave, 22,000 went home. That left 10,000 soldiers to fight against the powerful, strong Midianites.

But then the Lord spoke to Gideon again, "There are still too many soldiers. Take them down to the water and there I will tell you which soldiers to take with you to fight the Midianites and which to leave behind." So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, "The men who drink water by lapping it from their hands like a dog gets a drink, put them together in one group and the men who get all the way down on their knees and drink right from the water itself without putting it in their hands, put those men in another group. I bet Gideon didn't have the slightest idea what God was intending to do. But he obeyed. He watched his soldiers. He watched to see how they drank water. 300 men got a drink by lapping the water from their hands, a little bit like a dog drinks. All the rest knelt down and drank right from the water. There was one small group of 300 men and a larger group. Now which group would you have chosen to fight against the strong and powerful Midianites? I would have chosen the big group, the group with the most soldiers. Probably I would have stuck with the 32,000 to begin with, but not the Lord! As I've told you before - His thoughts are not like our thoughts. This day, He would prove to Israel and to all who read the Bible today that Israel would win the battle against the powerful and strong Midianites by God's power, not by their own, and God did that by telling Gideon to send the larger group home. The 300 men would be Israel's army.

## **Encouragement**

As Gideon and his small army camped on the mountainside, he looked at the 300 men who God had chosen to fight and Gideon was very afraid. God saw that Gideon was afraid. But God understands us and He knows all about us. He made us. God was not angry with Gideon because he was afraid. Instead, God did something kind for Gideon. "If you are afraid to attack," God said, "go down to the camp with your servant and listen to what they are saying. Then you won't be afraid to attack the Midianites." Quietly Gideon and his servant went down into the camp. The Bible says there were so many soldiers there. Why not only the Midianites, but also other enemies of Israel had joined them. It says that so many soldiers had settled there that they were as thick as locusts (like a bunch of bugs!). It says they had so many camels, they could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore. If I were Gideon, in charge of fighting that army, I might have wanted to run home! And Gideon was probably feeling a little like that too and God knew it. Gideon and his servant heard two men talking, "I had a dream – a round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into our camp. It hit the tent so hard that the whole tent fell down." When Gideon's servant heard those words, he turned to Gideon and said, "God has given the Midianites into your hands." You see a little loaf of bread could hardly make a

tent fall down, now could it? God allowed Gideon and his servant to hear that Midianite speak about his dream because that was just what was about to happen. The little tiny army of 300 men would come down that hill and the Midianites would be ruined. When Gideon and his friend heard the soldiers dream they were no longer afraid. The Bible says Gideon worshipped God.

### **The Attack**

When they returned to the camp, Gideon called out to his little army, "Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands." Then Gideon separated the soldiers into three groups. But instead of swords and spears Gideon planned to fight another way. The Bible says he gave trumpets and empty jars to each of the men in his army. Then he placed torches inside the jars. "Watch me," he told his small army. Follow what I do. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon'."

When they reached the edge of the Midianite camp, one group of Gideon's army blew their trumpets. Then the men broke the jars that they had been holding. Then the other two groups did the same thing. They blew their trumpets as they smashed the jars breaking them. The Bible says they held the torches in their left hands while they held the trumpets in their right hands. With a loud shout, the small army called out, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" Well the sleeping Midianites woke up. They were so confused and scared. Can you imagine? Torches burning, jars breaking, trumpets blowing and loud shouts! It was nighttime and very dark. Quickly the Midianites grabbed their swords and spears and began to fight. But they couldn't see and were fighting each other. The 300-man army of the Israelites hadn't even drawn one single sword. Israel won the battle that night, Gideon and his 300 men. It was a miracle for sure! God kept His promise to Gideon and Gideon was a judge over Israel for 40 years. During those 40 years God's people worshipped Him, followed His commands, and lived in peace.