

# Old Testament

## Gideon listens to God

## Judges 6-8:23

### Younger Verse

Accept one another. Romans 15:7

### Older Verse

Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God’s ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

### Welcome Time

What if God told you something. Would you believe it? Why? (Get some responses from the kids.) Today we are going to learn about Gideon. Listen to see how long it took him to believe God.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

After Deborah died, God’s people loved God for a while, then they would worship statues in place of God and do wrong things for a while. Because of this, they had some hard times. A group of people called the Midianites were cruel to them. In fact, God’s people hid in caves to escape their mean ways.

One day a man named Gideon was sifting wheat. Suddenly an angel appeared and said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!”

Gideon was surprised. Then he wanted to ask a question. He asked the angel why God was not helping His people. He wondered why they were having such a hard time. The angel told him that he was the one that would help God’s people.

Gideon gulped. He explained to the angel that he was the weakest person in his family. He certainly couldn’t conquer the Midianites.

God told Gideon that He would be with him. Gideon was unsure, so he decided to ask for proof. “God, show me that you are really talking to me. Please wait here until I return.” Gideon ran to bring an offering to God.

The angel told Gideon to put the meat and bread under the tree. Gideon followed the instructions. When the angel touched the food with his stick, it burst into flames! Gideon realized that he WAS talking to an angel. He became scared, but God told him everything was fine.

That night God told Gideon that he must break down his father’s idol. So, that night he and 10 servants broke down the idol statue. The next morning everyone was mad. They wanted someone to pay for the destruction. Finally Gideon’s father told the people, “Let the idol take care of himself.” Nothing happened. The people realized that the idol was just a statue; it was not God.

### Lesson Goals:

**Tell the difference between doubting and believing God**  
**Explain how God can give you courage**  
**Define what it means to trust God with ALL your heart**

Again, Gideon told God that he wanted proof that He would help him. He set out some wool (fleece) in the grass. He told God only to have dew on the wool and not on the grass. That next morning, the wool was wet but the grass wasn't wet!

Gideon decided he needed more proof. He asked God to make the wool dry and the grass wet. Sure enough, that next morning it was dry and the grass was wet!

The next day Gideon and his people were ready to go into battle. But God told Gideon to announce that anyone who was afraid could go home. Lots of men left, but lots remained.

God knew that if Gideon had that many people, God would not get the credit for helping them. So, he told Gideon to choose only the people who lapped up water when they drank. Believe it or not only 300 men did this. Gideon trusted God. He knew that only God could help them win the battle because the Midianites had thousands of fighting men!

In the middle of the night, God told Gideon to get up and get ready. He divided the men into 3 groups and gave them trumpets and fiery torches which were in dark jars so that they could not be seen. When they surrounded the camp, Gideon blew his trumpet and brought out his torch. All the men did this too.

The Midianites were so shocked and scared that they panicked! God won the battle! All the people knew that it was God who helped them!

You know, it isn't always easy to believe. It took lots of proof for Gideon to finally believe. Gideon did have to trust God and go forward into battle. God was faithful. He did what He said.

God is faithful to us too. He promises us that He will always be with us if we believe in Him and trust Jesus in our hearts. What a relief to know that God is always with us!

#### **Learning Activities**

Help the kids apply the lesson to their lives. Talk about it and also let them work on activities.

#### **Memory Verse Activities**

Talk about what it means to "accept" someone. Since school has started, the kids may have examples of how someone was accepted or rejected. Share how Jesus accepts us and loves us no matter what we have done.

#### **Prayer Time**

It is so important to pray. Don't forget it. Let the kids say a sentence prayer and thank God for giving us courage!

#### **Snack Time/CleanUp**

Share snacks like bugles to remember the horns and torches.

Planning for Lesson 38  
Jephthah and his family  
Judges 11

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## Preschool Lesson For Gideon

A group of people called the Midianites were cruel to God's people. In fact, God's people hid in caves to escape their mean ways.

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Gideon gulped. He explained to the angel that he was the weakest person in his family. He certainly couldn't conquer the Midianites.

God told Gideon that He would be with him. Gideon was unsure, so he decided to ask for proof. "God, show me that you are really talking to me. Please wait here until I return." Gideon ran to bring an offering to God.

The angel told Gideon to put the meat and bread under the tree. Gideon followed the instructions. When the angel touched the food with his stick, it burst into flames! Gideon realized that he WAS talking to an angel. He became scared, but God told him everything was fine.

Again, Gideon told God that he wanted proof that He would help him. He set out some wool (fleece) in the grass. He told God only to have dew on the wool and not on the grass. That next morning, the wool was wet but the grass wasn't wet! (You may have to explain what dew is)

Gideon decided he needed more proof. He asked God to make the wool dry and the grass wet. Sure enough, that next morning it was dry and the grass was wet!

The next day Gideon and his people were ready to go into battle. But God told Gideon to announce that anyone who was afraid could go home. Lots of men left, but lots remained.

God knew that if Gideon had that many people, God would not get the credit for helping them. So, he told Gideon to choose only the people who lapped up water when they drank. Believe it or not only 300 men did this. Gideon trusted God. He knew that only God could help them win the battle because the Midianites had thousands of fighting men!

In the middle of the night, God told Gideon to get up and get ready. He divided the men into 3 groups and gave them trumpets and fiery torches which were in dark jars so that it could not be seen. When they surrounded the camp, Gideon blew his trumpet and brought out his torch. All the men did this too.

The Midianites were so shocked and scared that they panicked! God won the battle! All the people knew that it was God who helped them!

God will help us too if we trust Him.

Song "Did you ever see a soldier?" to the tune of "Did you ever see a Lassie?"

Did you ever see a soldier, a soldier, a soldier?  
Did you ever see a soldier go this way and that  
Go this way and that way and that way and this way  
Did you ever see a soldier go this way and that

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Hands-On Activities  
For  
Gideon

Make Paper Torches (from Steven Burgin) Overlap pieces of paper or newsprint. Roll into a cylinder and cut 2 or 3 inches down around the top to make a frayed edge. Pull on the top as you turn the cylinder and the torch will grow in size.

Create Trumpets using the pattern and paper towel rolls (we have some!)

Use cotton to make Fleece. Use it for the lesson.

Cut out Felt to make a mobile of the lesson.

Play the “Stand up game.” See attached sheet.

Decorate a clothes pin to look like Gideon. Now hide the clothes pin and let the kids find “him.” Ask the kids why Gideon was hiding in the lesson and what he did when the angel came to him.

Make Gideon’s wheat snacks to eat. Use crackers and peanut butter to make delicious snacks to remind the kids of Gideon’s old job—a farmer.

Play the “Wool game.” Fleece comes from sheep so play this fun game with smaller kids. Have the children stand in a circle. Have one child sit in the center and blindfold him/her. Have the children walk around the circle until the blindfolded child says “stop.” Now he points to a “sheep” who must “baa” like a sheep. The blindfolded child must try to guess who is “baaing.” If he is right, the two will switch places. If he is wrong, he will get another chance to see who is “baaing.”

Make the Soldier Hip pack out of a paper plate. See the attached page.

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