

LESSON 5

GOD CALLS GIDEON

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us Be Courageous

SCRIPTURE: Judges 6–7

GOD'S BIG STORY: God chooses Gideon to free the Israelites from the Midianites, but Gideon is afraid. God provides miraculous signs proving He is with Gideon and giving him courage to lead God's people into battle and defeat their enemies with God's help.

WORD OF WONDER: God keeps His promises forever. —from 1 Chronicles 16:15

Object Lesson: Wet or Dry Cloth

Activity: Be Courageous

Worship

God's Big Story

Snack

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Cotton Ball Sheepskin

Activity: Wet or Dry Cloth

SUPPLIES: washcloths (2), water, bowl, table

Just before the kids arrive, wet one washcloth so it's damp but not dripping, and put it in a bowl.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here today! Hold up the dry washcloth. **Who knows what this is?** Allow kids to respond. **Right! This is a washcloth. Is this washcloth wet or dry?** Let the kids look at and feel the washcloth. Then repeat with the wet washcloth.

Let the kids feel the difference between wet and dry. They can use the wet washcloth to wipe a table in the room and the dry washcloth to dry it off. **We're going to talk about a time when God showed someone something amazing by getting a cloth wet and then making it dry! We'll find out all about it in today's part of God's big story.**

Activity: Be Courageous

Today we're learning about someone who was a regular person, and God called him to do something very brave. We'll learn how God showed the person that God would be with him. God helped the man, Gideon, be courageous! The word *courageous* means brave. It doesn't mean we never get scared. It means we trust that God is with us, even when we face scary things. I'll say some things, and if it makes you feel scared, you can hide your eyes like this (demonstrate hiding your eyes). **If God can help you be brave with what I say, put your hands on your hips and stand tall, showing courage.** Demonstrate standing tall.

Read the following list and encourage the kids to do the motions:

- A thunderstorm
- Going somewhere where you don't know anyone (like the first day of school)
- A spider
- Making a new friend
- Eating a new food
- A lion
- A big party
- A dark room
- Eating dinner
- Hearing from God

We can hear from God and let Him help us be brave and courageous, no matter what we face. God is always with us. We'll learn today how He helps us. Our Wonder Truth today is: **GOD HELPS US BE COURAGEOUS.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—Point up.

HELP US—Point to yourself.

BE COURAGEOUS—Hands on your hips, standing tall.

Worship

Today we'll learn how God helps us be brave. He is always with us, and we can thank Him! Let's sing and praise Him.

Play songs from the Little Learners Playlist and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, towels (2), bowl, water

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Ahead of time, set out two towels. Fill a bowl with water and get one of the towels slightly wet.

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Gideon. Can you say, "Gideon"? Pause to allow the kids to respond. We'll learn how God helped him be brave. Let's find out from the Bible what happened.

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction of the story.

Gideon was not very brave. But God was ready to help Gideon be courageous. Gideon said he would put out a sheepskin cloth overnight. If it was wet with dew in the morning, but the ground around it was dry, Gideon would know God would be with him. Dew is water that forms on something from the air. Have you noticed the grass is wet in the morning sometimes? That's dew.

Let's pretend to go to sleep. Encourage kids to lie down and pretend to be asleep. **While Gideon slept, something amazing happened! Let's wake up and see. In the morning, the ground was dry, but the sheepskin was wet.** Hold up the wet towel. Let the kids feel it.

Gideon asked for one more sign. This time he wanted the sheepskin to be dry, but the ground around it to be wet with dew. So to bed they went once again! Let's go to sleep again! Encourage kids to lie down and pretend to be asleep.

Time to wake up! Sure enough, when he woke up the next day, the ground was wet, and the sheepskin was dry. Let the kids feel the dry towel. **God helped Gideon be courageous. We can trust God too. God can help us be courageous.**

Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

Dear God. kids repeat

You know me, love me, and lead me too. kids repeat

Please help me follow You. kids repeat

Thank you for snacks so yummy. kids repeat

That fill my happy tummy! kids repeat

Amen

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER
God keeps His promises forever.

—from 1 Chronicles 16:15

Our Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series is from 1 Chronicles 16:15: “God keeps His promises forever.”

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—Point up.
- **KEEPS**—Spread your right hand out before you from left to right.
- **HIS PROMISES**—Place an index finger on your lips. Move your hand downward and open your palm.
- **FOREVER**—Draw large circles in the air with your index finger.
- **FROM 1 CHRONICLES 16:15**—Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Let’s pray and thank God for how He guides us and how He keeps His promises. When I say, “brave,” make a brave face.

God, thank You for helping Gideon be brave (make brave face). Thank You for helping us be brave (make brave face) and courageous! We trust You to always be with us and help us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: As you go out today, may you always remember that God will help you be courageous. When you’re feeling scared or alone, God will always be with you and will help you be brave.

Activity: Cotton Ball Sheepskin

SUPPLIES: cotton balls (at least 3 per kid), bowl (optional), water (optional)

Show the kids the cotton balls.

These cotton balls remind me of the sheepskin fleece that Gideon used in God’s big story. Do you remember what Gideon asked God to do with the sheepskin? Allow kids time to respond. Right, he asked God to keep it dry when the ground around it was wet and to make it wet when the ground all around it was dry! This helped Gideon be courageous! Let’s play with the cotton balls and pretend we’re picking up the sheepskin from the ground, like Gideon did.

Toss the cotton balls on the floor and encourage the kids to pick them up. To make it even more fun you could let the kids get some of the cotton balls wet (like what Gideon saw in the story) by dropping them into a bowl of water.