

UNIT VERSE

Do what is right and good.

Deuteronomy 6:18

GIDEON OBEYED GOD**LEADER BIBLE STUDY****CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION**

(For age-appropriate language, use the Bible story on the following pages.)

LIFE POINT

People can choose to obey God.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God created me to make choices.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Judges 6: 11-14 ;
7:1-22

WEEKLY VERSE

We will serve...God and obey Him.
Joshua 24:24

Christians often include Gideon as one of the heroes of the Bible, but his story serves as a stark reminder that God, not heroic people, brings victory and does the saving. God chose to work through Gideon to defeat the Midianites, not despite his weaknesses, but because of them. Gideon's family was the weakest in Manasseh, and Gideon was the youngest in his father's family. Gideon had nothing to boast about, no temptation to believe that he had brought about the victory himself. God made it obvious that He won the battle, not the small, weak army Gideon led.

Gideon's story was not the first or last time God worked this way.

Throughout Scripture, we see God repeatedly use unlikely people to fulfill His plans. David was a youngest son and was still out tending sheep, not even considered a prospect among his family, when Samuel went to anoint the new king (1 Samuel 16:5-13). Moses was a fugitive with a speech impediment when God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 3-4). Rahab was a woman with questionable morals when God used her to protect the Israelite spies (Joshua 2). Mary was a young, unmarried woman of modest means when God blessed her with the miraculous pregnancy of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38).

God is the hero throughout the Bible, and He is still the hero today.

When He works through you, despite your weakness, how do you respond?

Are you tempted to commend yourself for your spiritual maturity and strength, or do you recognize that it is God at work within you, and that anything good in you comes from Him?

When things are going well, our human nature tempts us to trust in our own qualifications, abilities, and strength instead of God's. When we face challenges, on the other hand, we are often tempted to focus on our lack of qualifications, rather than God's abundant power. Many of us shrink back in fear from something He is leading us to do.

Look at Gideon's responses to God's directives. What was Gideon most afraid of? What holds you back from walking in obedience? Do you shy away from gospel conversations because you are worried you are ill-equipped?

Do you say no to a ministry opportunity because you do not feel qualified?

As you pray this week, ask God to give you the strength to trust Him instead of yourself. Ask Him to help refocus your mind to always give God the glory for the battles He wins.



TELL THE STORY

Gideon Obeyed God - Judges 6: 11-14 ; 7:1-22

GIDEON OBEYED GOD -Based on Judges 6:11-14; 7:1-22

BIBLE STORY FOR 1s

God sent an angel (messenger) to tell Gideon that God wanted him to help the people.

"I am not strong. I cannot help my people," Gideon said.

"God will help you," said the angel.

God told Gideon how to choose three hundred soldiers to fight.

God told Gideon to choose the men who drank water with their hands.

The men took their horns and torches covered with clay pitchers and did what Gideon said to do.

God led Gideon to help keep the Israelites safe.

BIBLE STORY FOR 2s

God sent an angel (messenger) to tell Gideon that God wanted him to help the Israelite people against the Midianites (MID ih uhn ights).

"I am not strong. I cannot help my people," Gideon said. "God will help you," replied the angel.

God told Gideon how to choose three hundred soldiers to fight.

The men went to drink water at the river. Some men bent down and drank right from the river. Some men cupped water in their hands and drank the water from their hands. God told Gideon to choose the men who drank water with their hands.

The men took their horns and torches covered with clay pitchers and did what Gideon said to do.

God helped Gideon and the army keep the Israelites safe.



BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

ART

Using large popsicle sticks, along with squares of yellow/orange tissue paper and glue sticks, let children stick the tissue paper to the sticks to represent torches while the teacher says, “Gideon’s army had lights,” and repeat, “God helped Gideon. God helps you!”

BLOCKS

With soft blocks or stacking blocks, allow children to build and knock them down freely. As they play, the teacher says, “Gideon obeyed God,” and repeat, “God helped Gideon win.” Encourage building simple towers and celebrating when they fall, connecting it by saying, “God is strong.”

HOMELIVING

Provide play cups, bowls, and simple dress-up items like scarves. Let children hold and carry items like torches while the teacher says, “Gideon’s army had torches,” and repeat, “Gideon obeyed God.” Encourage simple pretend play while keeping language repetitive and calm.

NATURE

Include natural items like leaves, sticks, or textured materials in bins for exploration. As children touch and move the items, the teacher says, “God made everything,” and repeat, “God was with Gideon,” connecting God’s power to the world around them. You can include magnifying glasses, binoculars. Children can use a wipe to “clean each item” and see the dirt that is left on the wipe.

PUZZLES & MANIPULATIVES

Provide simple knob or chunky puzzles and allow children to explore placing puzzle pieces. As they work, the teacher says, “Gideon listened to God,” and repeat, “You can listen to God,” reinforcing the idea of following directions in a simple way.