

## ***Gideon: God gives Guidance and Victory***

**Bible Lesson:** Gideon: God gives Guidance and Victory - Judges 6:1-24, 33-40; 7:1-23; 8:10

**Main Teaching:** God wants to use you for his good work!

**Word Up:** God Can Use Me!

**Supplies:**

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for “No Turning Back” and “Thanks be to God” - Worship (Sing About the King 3 CD)
- Optional Song Visual for “No Turning Back” – Worship (cefpress.com)
- An Empty 2 Liter bottle (Clear would be best), and several balloons - Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story “Gideon: God gives Guidance and Victory” – Bible Lesson
- Scroll with Judges 6:8-10 on it. (Optional) – Bible Lesson
- Isobel Kuhn Flashcard Visual 5 – Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Color Sheet Week 4 – Small Group (Resource Pack)
- Quiet Time Sheet Week 4 for each child – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

**Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):**

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Worship / Rules / Word Up
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Bible Lesson
- 10 min – Review Game
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group

### ***INTRODUCTION***

No matter who you are or what you have done, God can use you for His glory. No one expected anything good or noble to come from Gideon. But God chose Gideon to lead the Israelite army to defeat the Midianites.

As you teach this growth narrative Bible lesson, emphasize to the saved children that God can use them to do His good work. No matter their grade, age, or family situation, God can bring about His good. As you teach the memory verse, encourage the children to stand firm and abound in the work of the Lord. The Bible may not spell out every possible scenario of life, but it does give guidelines and wisdom that is applicable for all people, of all ages, in all times. As you grow to know God's way more, you can learn to see His good work and then do it.

As you continue this study of the book of Judges, Israel's consequences of disobedience to God are evident. Boys and girls today need to understand their sins have consequences. Their sins also have an eternal consequence—to be separated from God and all of His goodness forever. Instead of giving us the consequence we deserve, God has made a way to give us forever life with Him. God sent Jesus to take the punishment for sin. Remember to clearly explain the Gospel and give the children an invitation to believe in Jesus.



## SMALL GROUP

### Say Memory Verse

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader

### Good Things

Did you know that God wants to use you to do good things? (Read Ephesians 2:10.) When you believe in Jesus as your Savior from sin, God promises to help you do good things. Let's try to come up with ideas of good things you can ask God to help you do this week. (Suggest good things that the children could do. Listen to their suggestions and write down some of the ideas.) This week, will you ask God to help you do good things? If you see each other during the week, encourage one another and talk about the good things God is doing.

## WORSHIP

To learn songs and motions, go to Youtube and type in CEF and the name of the song in the search bar.

*"No Turning Back"*

*"Thanks be to God"*

## RULES

Review the Up Rules reminding the kids that following the rules helps everyone be able to feel safe and learn. If there is a particular rule the children are having trouble with, do a skit to highlight that rule and why it is important.

## WORD UP!

*"God can use me!"*

Think of someone who is really important. Lots of people know that person, and what they say or do really matters. Sometimes it feels like only important or well known people really matter, but God can use ordinary people to do his work. **WORD UP!** *"God can use me!"* (Say with children) Listen today to hear how God used an ordinary man to do something amazing.

## OBJECT LESSON

### God can do the Impossible

What you need:

- An empty 2 liter bottle (Clear would be best)
- Several balloons

What you do:

Pop a hole near the bottom of the 2 liter bottle. (This should be big enough to let air out, but small enough that you can block the hole with your finger.) Place the top of the balloon down inside the bottle, and wrap the end of it around the bottle lip. Your balloon should now be up-side down dangling from the top of the bottle. Cover the hole with your finger, and try to blow the balloon up into the bottle. It shouldn't work. Now, uncover the hole and try again. This time the balloon should be able to fill with air. Cover the hole with your finger while the balloon is full of air, and it should stay blown up.

Video Demonstration:

<https://youtu.be/GqMI17BycqM?si=EC6baOFotcPiOuHN>

What you say:

In this bottle I stuck a balloon. Who would like to blow this balloon up for me? (Hold the bottle while covering the hole with your finger, and have the kids try to blow the balloon up. You may want to change out balloons for each person. Tell the kids things like "blow harder", or "take deeper breaths") It may have seemed an easy task when I asked you to do it, but it wasn't. It was impossible. Maybe you know the things God wants you to do, but those things seem really hard. You might think, "God it's impossible. I can't obey my parents every time. I can't love the bully at my school." You feel like this balloon. Like the things God is asking you to do are impossible. God's true book the Bible says, (Read Hebrews 11:6a) You can't please God, can't do the things he wants you to do if you haven't put your faith and trust in him. God wants you to believe in him, and when you do he will come to live inside you, and he will help you to do those things that seemed impossible. (Uncover the hole with your finger, and blow up the balloon. Place your finger over the hole to keep the balloon blown up. You could have the same kids try blowing the balloon again.) God wants to use you for his good work. The things God wants you to do may still seem hard. Remember, you can't do this on your own. Pray and ask God to give you the strength. He will help you to do those hard things. God can use you to do impossible things. **WORD UP! "God can use me!"** (Say with children)



**BIBLE LESSON**

**INTRODUCTION**

Have you ever felt like God wants you to do things that are too hard for you? (Allow response and share a short personal example.) The Bible tells about someone who felt he couldn't do what God wanted him to do. It happened like this.

**PROGRESSION OF EVENTS**

Do you remember what happened to the Israelites every time they tried living their own way instead of God's way? (Allow response and briefly review the previous lesson.) In the book of the Bible called Judges, God tells about another time when He rescued the Israelites from the consequences of their sin. (Read Judges 6:1.) The Israelites were living evil lives and God let them suffer the consequences.

**Flashcard 4-1**

For seven years people called Midianites were stealing or destroying all the Israelites' food. Every time I say "Midianites," pretend to hide food behind your back so the Midianites can't steal it.

When the Israelites begged God to rescue them from the Midianites, God chose a man to give them this message. (Have an older child or volunteer read the prophet's message from Judges 6:8-10. You may wish to write the verse

on a scroll.) God was reminding the Israelites that their problem was because of their sin. He had warned them that their sin would have consequences.



God also warns you that your sin has consequences (what happens because of something you do). Sin is thinking, saying, or doing things that God's Word says not to do. Sin causes big problems for you. If you sin by telling lies, people won't trust you. If you sin by saying mean things about people, you might lose friends. But sin also has a forever consequence. (Read Romans 6:23a.) This means the consequence for sin is being separated from God forever. God is completely perfect so He cannot allow sin to be with Him. Because all people are born wanting to sin, all people have earned death and separation from God. You can never be good enough to be near God but He loves you so much that He wants to give you forever life with Him! (Read Romans 6:23b.) Jesus Christ is God's perfect Son. Jesus, who is fully God, came to Earth as a human so He could take the punishment your sin has earned. Evil men who didn't believe Jesus was God the Son accused Him of doing wrong and He was sentenced to die. Jesus willingly took your punishment—the forever consequence for your sin—when He suffered, bled, and died on a cross. (Read Revelation 1:5b.) Jesus died on the cross, giving His life's blood, because of His great love for you. Now, because of Jesus, God can free you from your sin and give you forever life with Him! Jesus was buried but on the third day He came back to life! He will never die again. Since God is the one who made and owns everything, He has the right to destroy anything or anyone that doesn't do what He says. But instead of giving people the consequence they deserve, He has made a way to give them forever life with Him. Because God does not want us to be separated from Him, He warns us that our sin has consequences.

God had warned the Israelites that their sin would have consequences and now they were in trouble because they had not listened to God. But God still loved them and showed them kindness they did not deserve. He chose another person to be a judge—a special, real-life hero who would rescue the Israelites.

When I shout "hero," jump up and freeze like a superhero. Hero! (Do with children.) You might think a hero would be bold and powerful, but God chose someone who was hiding and scared.

**Flashcard 4-2**

A man named Gideon was hiding from the Midianites when someone special came to see him. Let's pretend to hide from the Midianites. (Do with children.) The Angel of the Lord came to see Gideon. A lot of people think that when the Bible says, "The Angel of the Lord," it is talking about Jesus. Even though Jesus didn't come to Earth as a baby until much later, He has always been the great and powerful Son of God!

The Angel of the Lord told Gideon that God was sending Gideon to save Israel from their enemies, the Midianites. How would you feel about being chosen for this job? (Allow response.) Gideon felt like he couldn't do what God wanted him to do.



Have you ever felt like you couldn't do what God wanted? Maybe someone made you very angry and you think you can never forgive him. Perhaps you think God wants you to help someone who is being bullied but you are afraid. Maybe you know you should stand up for what is right but you know your friends will all make fun of you. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, God wants to use you for His good work! God's good work is the good things He has for you to do—things you do that please God and show how great He is. Doing God's good work isn't always easy. Sometimes doing the right thing might feel impossible. In fact, you can't do God's good

work on your own. But God has the power to help you do the good things He wants you to do. (Read Ephesians 2:10.) When you and I do the good things God has prepared for us to do, we are honoring God and pleasing Him. God can use you to do His good work even if you feel you can't. **WORD UP! "God can use me!"** (Say with children)

God was going to use Gideon, but Gideon felt like he couldn't do what God was asking. He knew it was impossible for the Israelites to win a fight against the powerful Midianite army. Listen to what happened next. (Read Judges 6:16.) God—the powerful King of everything—promised to be with Gideon! Clap twice if you think God has enough power to win a fight against the Midianite army. (Allow response.)

Gideon still wasn't sure he could trust the Angel of the Lord because he didn't know for sure He really was from God. But when Gideon brought food to Him, listen to what happened! (Read Judges 6:20-21.) The fire came out of a rock to burn up the food. Then the Angel of the Lord disappeared! Now Gideon knew for sure that this message was from God. God had chosen him to be a special hero to rescue the Israelites from their enemies!

**Flashcard 4-3**

Later the Midianites and other enemies of the Israelites all grouped together in one huge army and prepared to attack the Israelites. There were more enemies than you could count—even if you did nothing but count all day long! With God's help Gideon also gathered an army of Israelite men to fight with him. Lots of men came to help but the Israelite army was still much smaller than the enemy army. Gideon was afraid so he asked God for a way to know for sure that God would help the Israelites.

**Flashcard 4-4**

Gideon put some sheep's wool on the ground and asked God to make the wool very wet and the ground all around the wool very dry. The next day Gideon checked to see what God had done. Can you pretend to pick up the wool and squeeze it to see if it is wet? (Do with children.) Gideon squeezed an entire bowl full of water out of the wool even though the ground all around it was dry!

But Gideon still wasn't sure he could do it. He wanted to make sure God was really going to help. So he asked God to make the ground wet but the wool completely dry. Again God did what Gideon asked. God had the power to use Gideon even though Gideon felt like he couldn't do what God wanted.

Gideon might have felt a bit better when he gathered his army together and saw that 32,000 men had come to help him fight. The Midianite army was still four times bigger than Gideon's, but now Gideon thought his army might be able to win— especially if God helped them. But God wanted everyone to know for sure that God was really the one rescuing the Israelites and they weren't rescuing themselves. So God told Gideon that his army was too big! Anyone who was afraid to fight should go home. How do you think Gideon felt when 22,000 of his soldiers went home because they were afraid? (Allow response.) Now Gideon's army was nearly 14 times smaller than the Midianite army! But God didn't stop there. He told Gideon a way to send home even more soldiers. Now there were only 300 men left in Gideon's army. The Midianite army was over 400 times bigger than Gideon's army! But God promised to use this small army to save the Israelites.

**Flashcard 4-5**

God knew that He could win the battle without any soldiers at all, but how do you think Gideon felt? (Allow response.) That night God told Gideon to sneak down to the Midianite camp. God wanted to show him that He was already working on Gideon's side. Let's pretend to sneak into the Midianite camp with Gideon. (Do with children.)

As Gideon came near the enemy camp and listened carefully, he heard some of the soldiers talking. They said they were afraid of Gideon because of the promise God made to give him victory over them.

Gideon finally believed God could use him to do things that he could never do on his own.



God can also use you to do things that are too hard for you to do on your own. In fact, the only reason you're able to breathe and move is because God graciously helps you do those things. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, **God wants to use you for His good work!** When God uses weak people like you and me to do things we can't do on our own, He shows how powerful and gracious He is. (Read 2 Corinthians 12:9.) God knows about your weaknesses but He is powerful. Remember God is your Helper and He has unlimited power to use you for His good work. He will show you grace by doing things in your life that you cannot do on your own. Is there something big you think God wants you to do? Maybe it is forgiving someone who was mean to you, helping someone who is being bullied, or standing up for what is right even if your friends make fun of you. Instead of worrying or thinking you can't do it, think about all the big things God has done. Can you think of some powerful things God has done? (Allow response.) If He has the power to create everything, do you think He has enough power to help you do good works? After you have thought about God's power, ask Him to use His great power to do His good work in your life. Then start doing it! Doing God's good work isn't always easy and you still may not feel like doing it, but as you start trusting God's way, God will give you the strength you need. God wants you to believe that He has a purpose for your life. He has power to use your life to do good works that please Him and show how great He is. God can use you. **WORD UP!** "God can use me!" (Say with children.)

Gideon finally believed God had the power to use him. He sneaked back to his army and gave them instructions for the battle they were about to fight. He told each of them to bring a trumpet and a jar with a torch hidden inside. Then he gave them these instructions: (read Judges 7:17-18). Gideon told them to surround their enemy and that when he blew the trumpet and shouted, they should too. The soldiers followed Gideon's orders and prepared for this strange battle. It was dark and the Midianites were asleep. They weren't ready for what came next. We're going to pretend to be the Israelites. When I start shouting, "For the Lord and for Gideon," I want all of you to jump up and make sounds like trumpets. When I stop shouting, try to be the first person to sit down quietly. (Do with children.)

**Flashcard 4-6**

The 300 men obeyed Gideon. Suddenly the sound of trumpets blowing broke the silence of the night. The Israelites broke the jars, revealing the torches and lighting up the night sky. It seemed like soldiers were all around the Midianites.

The Midianites were so scared and confused they began to attack each other. They destroyed most of their own army as they tried to run away. Gideon and his army chased them.

**CLIMAX**

The Midianites were totally defeated by God!

**CONCLUSION**

Even though Gideon had doubted, God used him to rescue the Israelites.

**CHALLENGE**



If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior. God wants to use you for His good work! If you aren't sure you can do something you know God wants you to do, remember to think, ask, and then do. Think about all the big things you know God has done. Ask God to use His power to do His good work in your life. Then start doing the good thing God wants you to do, even if it is hard. Remember God can use you, even when you are weak, to show how awesome He is. (Read 2 Corinthians 12:9.) When God uses you and me for His good works even though we are weak, He is pointing to Himself. This week will you ask God to show you the good work He wants you to do each day and to give you the power to do it? Come back next week and tell us about it so we can praise God together for His work in you!

**INVITATION**



If you have never believed in Jesus as your Savior, remember that Jesus took the punishment your sin deserves. The Bible says, (read Acts 10:43b). Because of your sin, you deserve the consequence of separation from God. Jesus died on the cross in your place, was buried, and rose again so that you don't have to face the consequence of your sin but instead you can have your sin forgiven. When you believe in Jesus as your Savior—as the only way to be saved—you are forgiven! You will have a friendship with Him that starts right away and lasts forever. God will be your God and He will be with you to help you live His way and do His good works. Will you believe in Jesus today? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you want to talk to me about believing in Jesus, would you show me by looking up at me? (Acknowledge responses.) You may all open your eyes. If you looked up at me please meet me (designate time and location). I'll bring my Bible and we can talk more about believing in Jesus.



**REVIEW GAME**

**Word Up! Face-Off**

Divide children into two teams. Ask for a volunteer from each team and have them come to the front and face each other. Ask one of the review questions. The first person to say today's Word Up! may answer the question. If the first child answers incorrectly, the other child may attempt to answer. Choose two new children for each question and award points for each correct answer.

1. What group of people was stealing food from the Israelites? (The Midianites.)
2. What is the forever consequence for sin? (Death—being separated from God forever.)
3. What did the Angel of the Lord tell Gideon? (God was sending Gideon to save the Israelites from the Midianites.)
4. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, what is something you can do that would be part of God's good work? (Answers will vary.)
5. Why was Gideon afraid of fighting the Midianite army? (The Israelite army was much smaller than the Midianite army.)

6. How did God show Gideon that He would help the Israelites fight the Midianites? (God told Gideon; God made the wool wet, then dry when Gideon asked; God showed Gideon that the Midianite soldiers were afraid.)
7. Why does God use weak people like you and me to do His work? (It shows His power; it points to God; God shows me His grace when I am weak but He is strong; answers may vary.)
8. What was the strange way the Israelites fought the battle against the Midianites? (The Israelites blew trumpets, shouted, and broke jars with torches inside.)
9. What happened to the Midianites when the Israelites started shouting and smashing jars? (The Midianites got confused and started attacking each other.)
10. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, what can you do when you're scared or think you're too weak to do God's work? (Remember God is my helper; think about the big things God has done; ask God to show me the good work He wants me to do; do the good work I know He wants me to do; answers may vary.)
11. What did Jesus do so you can be saved from the consequences of your sin? (He died on the cross, was buried, and came back to life.)
12. According to our memory verse, what are we supposed to be abounding in? (The work of the Lord.)

## **MISSIONARY STORY**

### **Isobel Kuhn Part 5**



Who remembers what Isobel prayed for at the end of our story last time? (Allow response.) She prayed for God to help her not care about all the things that were different and hard when she moved to China—like bugs and the food that made her sick. God answered Isobel's prayers! Gradually she learned to like the flavor of pork fat and she stopped getting sick. She also found that insect powder kept the fleas from biting her. Best of all, God gave her an

even greater desire to tell the Chinese people that Jesus could be their Savior from sin.

From Chengchiang John and Isobel moved to Tali (DAH-lee), where their daughter Kathryn was born, and then to the valley of Yungping (YOUNG-pin). They kept telling people about Jesus and each move brought them closer to the mountains where the Lisu lived.

Then one day a letter came, telling them of the urgent need for another missionary couple in the Oak Flat District, right where the Lisu lived! It wasn't long before John, Isobel, and little Kathryn began the long trip that took them to the mountains and the Lisu people.

Gradually Isobel got to know the Lisu and their customs. She was sad to see the wrong beliefs that filled their lives with fear. Each Lisu child wore a dirty cord around his wrist that the people thought would protect him from demons (evil spirits). His parents taught him that the bite of a demon would make him sick. If he got sick, the family would have to kill one of their pigs so the demon wouldn't be angry anymore. The people didn't understand that most sicknesses were caused by germs.

Some of the Lisu had already heard about Jesus from missionaries who had been there before Isobel and John. Those who had believed in Jesus had started a church. The Kuhn family learned there was trouble in the Lisu church. Lisu Christians were arguing about what certain Bible verses meant. Isobel decided they needed more Bible training. During the rainy season, when the men couldn't work in the corn fields, she started Bible studies with

the church leaders. The studies became known as "Rainy Season Bible Schools."

For the girls Isobel decided to have a special school. Besides teaching them the Bible, she also taught sewing, knitting, and baby care.

The next year a Bible school for boys was held. While Isobel and John were working there, God gave them another baby, a boy they named Danny.

During this time there was a war—World War II. China was at war with Japan. Every day, war planes flew over the mountains where the Kuhns worked. Still the Lisu came to the schools. God helped Isobel not to worry even when the Japanese soldiers came dangerously close.

**The fighting between China and Japan got worse. The missionaries in China knew they were in great danger. What would they do?**



**SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY**

**Color Sheet and Discussion**

Review the Gideon story as kids color the Rahab picture. Talk about how God used Gideon, an ordinary man, to do something extraordinary. Ask, "Do you think God could use an ordinary person like you to do something extraordinary? What are some ways that you could do God's good work this week?"

**DISMISSAL**

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 4 in the Resource Pack) to each child. Encourage them to fill it out and bring it back next week. As children are getting picked up, try and connect with the parents and let them know the kids are working on doing God's good work this week.

**Gideon: God gives Guidance and Victory**

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in you Bible as a ready reference.

<b>Lesson Outline</b>	
<p><b>I. INTRODUCTION</b> Have you ever felt that God wants you to do things that are too hard for you?</p>	
<p><b>II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS</b> The Israelites were living evil lives and God let them suffer the consequences. (Judges 6:1)</p>	
	<p><b>A. Flashcard 4-1</b> (Judges 6:2-10)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Midianites were stealing food from the Israelites.                      Instead of giving people consequences they deserve, God made a way to give them forever life with Him! [Romans 6:23; Revelation 1:5b]</li> <li>God chose another person to be a judge and rescue the Israelites.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>B. Flashcard 4-2</b> (Judges 6:11-23)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gideon was hiding from the Midianites.</li> <li>The Angel of the Lord came to Gideon and said God would use Gideon to save Israel from their enemies.</li> <li><b>God wants to use you for His good work.</b> [Ephesians 2:10] Gideon wasn't sure he could do what God was asking but God promised to be with him.</li> <li>The Angel of the Lord showed He was from God.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>C. Flashcard 4-3</b> (Judges 6:33-35)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Midianites had a huge army prepared to attack the Israelites.</li> <li>Gideon gathered an army too, but it was much smaller than the Midianites.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>D. Flashcard 4-4</b> (Judges 6:36-7:8)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gideon put wool on the ground and asked God to make it wet then dry. God did.</li> <li>God told Gideon the Israelite army was too big; He made it smaller and smaller until only 300 men remained.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>E. Flashcard 4-5</b> (Judges 7:9-18)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gideon was still afraid so God sent him to the Midianite camp to hear how afraid the Midianite soldiers were.                      God uses weak people like you and me to do things we can't do on our own. [2 Corinthians 12:9]</li> <li>Gideon finally believed God could use him.</li> <li>Gideon gave instructions to the Israelite army on how they would fight.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>F. Flashcard 4-6</b> (Judges 7:19-20)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sound and light filled the night and the Midianite soldiers thought they were surrounded.</li> <li>The Midianites were so scared and confused they began to attack each other and destroyed most of their own army as they tried to run.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>III. CLIMAX</b> (Judges 7:21-23; 8:10) The Midianites were totally defeated by God!</p>
	<p><b>IV. CONCLUSION</b> Even though Gideon had doubted, God used him to rescue the Israelites.</p> <p><b>🕒</b> Ask God to show you the good work He wants you to do and to give you the power to do it. [2 Corinthians 12:9]</p> <p><b>🕒</b> When you believe in Jesus as your Savior, you are forgiven. [Acts 10:43b]</p>
<p>Scripture verses in parentheses are background text. Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.</p>	

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God's Faithfulness: Return to Canaan Coloring Sheet, Lesson 4