

Gideon: Lesson 1

SuperTruth: God gives me His strength.

SuperVerse: *When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior. Judges 6:12 (NIV)*

Bible Story: Judges 6–7

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game Materials Needed:

- Tent Pattern
- Cardstock: 12 pieces.
OR, you may use paper to make the tents, but they won't stand up as well
- Optional: painters or masking tape
- Scissors or paper cutter
- Four socks
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

Today is a new Superbook adventure called “Gideon.” In our story, we will see what God can do with anyone who trusts Him.

- Joy's parents are in a car accident and need her to send help, but Joy panics because she doesn't think she can find them.
- Superbook takes Joy, Chris and Gizmo back in time to meet Gideon—an unlikely hero hiding from enemies who have taken over Israel. The Angel of the Lord appears to Gideon, and he is transformed from a coward into a bold leader. Gideon faithfully follows God's instructions, even when others doubt his wisdom. The children discover how to find courage to face any challenge.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Enemy Camp (15 minutes)

Objective: *Play a game about the Midianite's dream.*

- In the Bible story, one Midianite soldier told another about a dream that he had. God allowed Gideon to hear a soldier saying what the dream meant. Today, we are going to roll barley loaves—well, not barley loaves, but socks—to try to knock over all of the enemy's tents!

Game Instructions:

- Hand the first player on each team two sock balls, representing loaves of barley bread. Each player gets two chances to ROLL—not throw!—the barley loaves into the enemy camp to try to knock over as many tents as possible. After each player rolls, they must retrieve the socks for the next player. The first team to knock over all of the tents in the enemy camp wins!

Teaching Materials Needed:

- Hand mirror
- Medium size box
- Paper: one sheet
- Marker
- Pitcher and Torch Pattern
- Scissors for children
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

Teaching: Mighty Warrior (15 minutes)

Objective: *Discuss how God saw Gideon.*

- Gideon probably thought that before God could use him, he needed to be a leader from a large tribe—or to be a trained soldier—or to be rich, important and respected. Yet God doesn't think it is necessary for us to be any of those things. We simply need to trust God.

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (5 minutes)

- Children use their craft to look up the scriptures on the torches before the next lesson, and to think about what the verses mean to them—especially if they feel weak or afraid to do something.

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Ball or inflated balloon
- Whiteboard or chalkboard
- Markers or chalk, erasers
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

SuperVerse: Superbook Erase (5 minutes)

Objective: *Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.*

- God saw what Gideon could become with God's help! God sees and understands us exactly as we are today, while He also sees what we can become in the future when we trust in Him!
- Say the verse together, then children close their eyes or turn around as you erase 2 words from the verse. Children look at the board and raise their hands to tell you what words you erased. Continue the game, erasing more words each time after saying the verse together.

Prayer: Partner Prayers (5 minutes)

Objective: *Communicate with God.*

- God still chooses people today! How would you answer God, if He spoke to you in prayer and said that He has chosen you to do a mighty work for Him? What would your answer be?
- Keep the children together for the prayer, allowing some time for them to think and pray about what God may be calling them to do. Or, have children pair up and pray for one another.

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

Relay Game: Play a game based on God's miraculous sign to Gideon. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Activity: Find the hidden wheat and discuss how God can work through us. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Study Game: Follow Gideon as a soldier in his army. | **Grades 1–3** | 10 min

Bible Study: Dig deeper into Gideon's fleece. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min