

Mighty Warrior?

BC12

Bible Verses: Judges 6-7

This meeting plan will cover the story of Gideon as found in Judges 6 and 7. It will show how the victory that Gideon and his men enjoyed was down to the might of God and their trust in Him. It will teach the children that although they may feel small, God can do mighty things through them if they trust and obey Him.

Leader's notes

We recommend that, at the end of the session, leaders give their young people a "Take Away" question, found at the end of the plan.

Encourage the young people to think about the questions, and use them in your discipleship sessions or cell groups, or bring their ideas back next week.

The story of Gideon is a tale of the miraculous: from his encounter with the angel, through the signs God provided of his authenticity, to the incredible victory of 300 over the Midianite army. It is also a tale of trust and obedience.

So many Urban Saints in the Bible have an inauspicious start, saying, in effect, 'I can't do this – send someone else'. Gideon is no exception. He has no illusions of grandeur: he knows he is one man with no special gifts or talents in a military direction, yet God chooses him to save Israel out of the hands of her enemies.

What was special about Gideon? He sought the Lord bit by bit until he was ready to trust that God would do all He planned and purposed through him. God graciously fulfilled the tests that Gideon set Him and, in turn, Gideon trusted God in the seemingly bizarre things He had him do. Who'd have thought that the way you take a drink might affect your place in a victorious army?!

God takes Gideon by the hand through the whole process – even confirming the victory by letting Gideon hear the Midianite's dream (**Judges 7:13-14**) when he hadn't asked for another sign. And Gideon responds with worship and faith.

What are the seemingly unbeatable armies that we face in our own lives? Where are the places that we feel small? When have we uttered the words, 'I can't – send someone else'?

As you prepare for this week's session, take some time to reflect on these questions and listen for God's voice at the heart of them. Where are the areas where you need to trust Him more? What are the things that you can do to show your obedience to Him? What amazing things will He achieve through your co-operation?

If God could use Gideon, He can (and will) surely use us and each one of the children that He has placed into your care.

'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!'

Follow The Leader

Warming Up

5 mins

 Game

Choose one child to be the leader. They stand facing the rest of the group and perform some actions. The rest of the group must copy exactly.

Try to get the leader to use more and more complicated actions. You might like to be the leader first to show how it's done. Let several children take a turn at being the leader.

The Point: Just for fun, introduces the idea of leadership.

Equipment

None.

Gideon's Battle

Teaching Time

20 mins

 Story

Read the beginning of the story 'Gideon's Battle' on pages 140 and 141 of The Beginners' Bible.

Pause and ask the children what they think an angel is like and how they would feel if they met one. Also ask the children if they know what a warrior is.

Spread out the sheepskin or fleece and read pages 142 and 143 of the story.

Pause and ask the children why these signs were so amazing. Ask the children if they have ever heard about God doing miracles today. (Also make sure that the children know what dew is!)

Read page 144 of the story. Explain to the children that Gideon had to let anyone who was frightened go home and that left him with 10 000 men. Then explain that God had another test for the men: Gideon was to take the men down to the river for a drink. Get the bowl of water out and get two volunteers. Ask the first volunteer to take a drink by putting their face in the water. Ask the second volunteer to take a drink by cupping the water in their hands. Tell the children that there were 300 men who drank in the second way – all the rest were sent home.

Put on the CD of trumpet music, light the candle and place in the jar, and read the rest of the story (p. 145).

Ask the children why the Midianite army were frightened and ran away.

Who made this happen? (God)

What was the only thing that Gideon had to do? (Trust and obey)

The Point: To tell Gideon's story and to show that God can do amazing things when we trust and obey him.

Equipment

The Beginners' Bible (Candle Books), sheepskin rug or fleece, large bowl with drinkable water in it (a washing up bowl would be ideal), CD of a trumpet playing (or a trumpet and someone to play it!), glass jam jar and tea light candle.

Tiny Flames

Response

10 mins

 Prayer

Give each person a tea light candle. You might like to put on some quiet, calm music and make the room dim.

Ask the children to think about situations where they feel small or as if they are facing a big army. Encourage them that God will be with them in those situations if they ask Him. Give them some time to talk to their heavenly Father.

When the children are ready, help each one of them to light their tea light as a sign that God hears their prayer and will be with them. Make sure you place the burning tea lights somewhere safe... and make sure that fire alarms won't go off!

The Point: To give the children space to reflect on how this story is relevant to their lives.

Equipment

Tea light candles, matches, optional chilled out music.

Go In The Strength You Have

Response

10 mins

 Memory Verse

*"Go in the strength you have ... Am I not sending you?"
Judges 6:14*

Give out the pieces of paper with the individual words to some of the children. Each child with a word should think of a 'strong' pose (think body builders!) When they are ready, line them up in order and stand the rest of the children on the floor in front of them. Ask each child to say their word as they strike their pose so that everybody hears the whole verse.

Go through the verse again with the rest of the children joining in with the words and the poses.

Go through the verse a third time, seeing if you can do it more quickly.

Give each child a copy of the verse to take home.

The Point: To learn the Bible.

Equipment

The words of the verse printed onto separate pieces of A4 paper, one word per sheet. The whole verse printed on to cards – one for each child.

Sound The Trumpet

Take Away

15 mins

 Craft Ideas

This item can be shared with your group using the QR code:



This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: all

Give each child a piece of card and show them how to bend it around into a cone shape that is narrow at one end and wide at the other. [NB: the narrow end should not be completely closed – there needs to be a small hole left]. Secure with sticky tape.

Let the children decorate their cones in any way they like. They may find it easier to decorate the card before it is made into a cone.

Show the children how they can make tooting noises into the narrow end of the cone which get amplified to sound like a trumpet! You might like to put sticky tape around the mouth holes to stop them getting soggy.

Remind the children that as Gideon and his men stood on top of the hill they sounded their trumpets.

Play the CD loudly and let the children play along!

The Point: To remind the children of the trumpets in the story.

Equipment

CD of trumpet music, A4 pieces of card, sticky tape, felt tips/glitter/stickers to decorate.

Torches

Take Away

15 mins

 Craft Ideas

This item can be shared with your group using the QR code:



This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: all

Give each child a cup, some clay and some tissue paper. Show them how to make a candle shape out of the clay by rolling it into a fat sausage. It should be about half the height of the cup.

Poke a pencil into the top of the candle to make a hole. Tear the tissue paper into flame-sized strips (you will need several of different colours). Twist the strips together at one end and push into the hole. Squeeze the clay round the hole to secure the 'flames'. (There should be plenty of 'flame' left on top of the candle).

Place the candle inside the cup. Remind the children that Gideon's army carried flames when they attacked the Midianites. Perhaps the children could put their torch somewhere at home to remind them that God will look after them too.

The Point: To give the children a reminder of the story.

Equipment

Transparent plastic disposable cups, plasticine or modelling clay, red, orange and yellow tissue paper, pencils.

I Am Small

Take Away

15 mins

 Craft Ideas

This item can be shared with your group using the QR code:



This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: all

Give the children the modelling clay and ask them to make a tiny model of themselves – the models should be not more than 5cm tall. Try to make them able to stand up.

If the children are struggling to do this, you can show them how a large ball makes a body with sausage shapes for arms and legs and a smaller ball for the head. Use a sharp pencil or other tool to put in features.

Bake the models in an oven to harden them.

Remind the children that even though we are small, we can do amazing things when God is helping us. We can always trust God!

The Point: To give the children a reminder of the story and encourage them when they are feeling small.

Equipment

Lots of colours of modelling clay that can be hardened in the oven (Fimo is ideal). Sharp pencils (or modelling tools).
