Preschool–Grade 6

Gideon

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God helped Gideon. God is with me too!
Bible passage: Judges 6–7. Read Judges 6:1–7:22 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit" *Zechariah 4:6 (KJV)*. **Might** means strength. God helps us by His Spirit, not by how strong we are.
You need: a Bible, a small paper bag with a handful of rice or dry cereal inside (the "wheat"), a paper cup and a yellow paper flame for each child, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Judges 6. Hide the bag of "wheat" somewhere in the room. Cut a small flame from yellow paper for each child.

1. Opening game: Find the Hidden Wheat (5 minutes)

Say: "I hid my wheat! Can you find it?" Kids look for the paper bag. Give hints: "warmer" when they get close, "colder" when they move away. Hide it again a few times. Say: "Today's true story is about a man named Gideon. He hid his wheat so the enemies would not take it."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Judges 6. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Enemies ruined Israel's food (Judges 6:3–4). *(Make a sad face.)*
Gideon hid his wheat so they would not find it (6:11). *(Crouch down low.)*
The angel of the LORD said, "The LORD is with thee" (6:12). *(Point up, then hug yourself.)*
Say it with me: "God is with me!"
Gideon said, "I am the least" (6:15). *(Make yourself very small.)*
God said, "I will be with thee" (6:16). *(Stand up tall.)*
Gideon had lots and lots of men (7:3). *(Spread your arms wide.)*
God said, "Too many!" (7:2) *(Shake your head no.)*
Most of the men went home (7:3, 7:7). *(Wave goodbye.)*
Only 300 men stayed with Gideon (7:7). *(Hold up three fingers.)*
Each man had a trumpet and a jar with a light inside (7:16). *(Hold a pretend jar.)*
In the night they blew the trumpets! (7:20) *(Toot, toot!)*
They broke the jars, and the lights shined (7:20). *(Clap once, then open your hands wide.)*
The men stood still, and God made the enemies run away (7:21–22). *(Freeze! Then run in place.)*
Say it with me: "God won the battle!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did Gideon hide? *(His wheat, Judges 6:11)*
2. Who said, "The LORD is with thee"? *(The angel of the LORD, 6:12)*
3. How many men stayed with Gideon? *(300 men, 7:7)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God said, 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.' That means God helps us by His Spirit, not by how strong we are." Teach the motion: on "not by might," make muscle arms and shake your head; on "nor by power," push your fists out and shake your head; on "but by my spirit," point up high. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Zechariah 4:6" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

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6. Activity: Trumpets and Lights (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a paper cup and a yellow paper flame. They hide the flame under the upside-down cup: that is the jar with the light inside (Judges 7:16). Say, "Blow your trumpets!" Everyone toots into their hands. Then say, "Show your lights!" Everyone lifts the cup and holds up the flame. Do it three times. Then give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a jar with a light coming out of it. While they color, ask: "How many men stayed with Gideon? Who won the battle?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for being with me.
Help me be brave like Gideon. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. If they get wiggly, do the trumpet and freeze motions again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks about the battle: say simply, "God made the enemies run away, and God's people were safe (Judges 7:21–22)." You don't need to say more for this age.

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