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SERIES: OUTRAGEOUS FOR KIDS

The Story of Gideon

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Lesson Overview

Today, we're going to learn about an outrageous story from the Old Testament that involved a guy named Gideon. Gideon lived in Israel during a very scary time. Another country had come in and taken over Israel. They stole food, animals and kicked Israelites out of their homes. It was terrible and the Israelites were really scared. Now, Gideon was just a normal guy. He wasn't especially smart or strong but for some reason God chose him for a special mission. God told Gideon that he was going to lead an army to defeat the enemy. Gideon was so scared and told God that he couldn't do it. But God told Gideon that he would be with him and would help him to be brave. Gideon trusted God and led an army to defeat the enemy using only clay pots and torches of fire! Now, that's outrageous!

Big Idea

God can make us brave.

Key Question

Why should we be brave?

Memory Verse

Judges 6:12 | The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!"

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Who is the bravest person you know and why?** (Tip: It could be a family member who battled an illness, a firefighter who rescued someone, or standing for Jesus at school.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Because we have God on our side.** (We don't ever have to be afraid because we have the all-powerful God of the universe on our side. God promises to be with us, to help us, and to cheer us on no matter what we face in this life. God wants to give us outrageous bravery to conquer any challenge.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** Who is on our side? Why don't we need to be afraid? **4-5th:** In what areas of your life do you need to be brave?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read 2 Timothy 1:7. What does it mean to be timid? What does God's Spirit give us?** (Answer: Timid is just a fancy word for being afraid or doubting that you can accomplish something. God tells us not to be afraid. When we trust in Jesus, the Bible says the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts and gives us power, strength, and the ability to accomplish all that God has planned for us.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: GIDEON'S TORCH CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a piece of brown or black construction paper and some pieces of yellow, orange and red tissue paper.
- Give each kid a Torch template (page 5).
- Have kids roll up their construction paper to make a funnel and have kids tape or staple to hold in place. (pointed end at bottom, open end at top). This will be the torch handle. Then have kids take strips of tissue paper and have them glue them to the inside of the torch to look like flames. Then, have kids glue the saying (page 5) to the side of their torch handle.

Supplies needed:

Brown or black construction paper (1 sheet per kid), Red, Orange, Yellow tissue paper (torn into strips, a few pieces per kid), Torch template (pg. 5, pre cut, 1 per kid), Tape or Staplers, Glue

Bonus Activity: "Find the Book"

Have the class get into pairs. Give each pair a Bible. Have them race to find the books below. First to find has to say if it's in the OT or NT.

Books: Numbers, Mark, Philipians

OPTION 2: BE BRAVE KING OF THE HILL

Instructions:

- Before class, tape a square on the floor. Choose one kid to stand in the square as the "King". Have the rest of the class line up single file facing the "King"
- To start the game, the "King" will face off with the first kid in line. Ask a question from below, the first to raise their hand gets to answer. If the "King" wins, they get to stay in the square and the other kid goes to the back of the line. If the kid in line wins, they get to be "King" and the other kid goes to the back of the line.

Supplies needed:

Tape

Questions:

1. Who is our story about today? (Gideon)
2. What's the Big Idea today? (See board)
3. Where did Jesus die for our sins? (cross)

4. What did God want Gideon to do? (lead army)
5. T or F: God makes us brave. (T)
6. Where did Gideon live? (Israel)
7. T or F: Living in fear is a good thing. (F)
8. From what book in the Bible is our memory verse found? (Judges)
9. Why did Jesus die for us? (sin)
10. Is the story of Gideon found in the OT or NT? (OT)

Bonus Activity: "Bible Hangman"

Words or phrases: Gideon, Be brave, Judges

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Hey kids! Today we are going to be talking about another outrageous story from the Bible. In this story we are going to learn about a guy named Gideon. Gideon lived in a place called Israel. Gideon and the people living in Israel were having a really hard time because some mean people had taken over the country. God wanted to use Gideon to lead an army to save the people. But Gideon wasn't sure about the plan. Let's find out why.

Gideon was just a _____ guy

There wasn't anything special about Gideon. He didn't know how to lead an army and he wasn't a warrior. In fact, he was one of the smallest and weakest people in his whole family.

_____ made Gideon brave

God wanted Gideon to know that he wouldn't be doing this all on his own. God would be right by him every step of the way! Gideon didn't have to be afraid. God would work through Gideon to help him fight for Israel. But Gideon isn't the only person that God helps to feel brave.

God can make _____ brave

Have you ever felt like Gideon? Maybe you were afraid of talking in front of your class or maybe you didn't think you were good enough to make the soccer team. No matter what your challenge, you need to know that God is always there to cheer you on. You don't have to be afraid of messing up because God will always love you no matter what. He wants to use you for big things just like Gideon so we can't let fear get in the way of that.

Answers: normal, God, us

Parent Signature: _____

Questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. Describe a time you had to be brave.
3. Who was Gideon and what was God asking him to do?
4. Why did Gideon doubt himself?
5. How does God help you to be brave?
6. Read [2 Timothy 1:7](#). What does it mean to be timid? What does God's Spirit give us?
7. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Color the picture.

GOD CAN MAKE US BRAVE

Key Question

Why should we be brave?

Memory Verse

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1stPursueGOD.org**GIDEON WAS BRAVE**

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