

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us Be Courageous

SCRIPTURE: Judges 6–7

WORD OF WONDER: From 1 Chronicles 16:15

When I encounter big obstacles, fear is often my first response. I occupy myself imagining worst-case scenarios and shrinking back from the challenge before me. I once heard this saying: “Worry is like a rocking chair. It will give you something to do, but it won’t get you anywhere.”

After Joshua died, the Israelites forgot what God had done for them and did evil in His sight. God raised up judges to guide the people and point them back to Him. Gideon seemed an unlikely pick for this position of power and authority—he even doubted it himself—but God continued to work gently with the reluctant judge.

Read [Judges 6:11–16](#) and [7:1–8](#). Gideon was hiding when the Lord told him he would be a mighty warrior. After testing God several times, Gideon finally believed God was speaking to him. When Gideon did go into battle, the circumstances made it obvious that victory came from God alone.

- When have you felt inadequate for the task to which God is calling you?
- How have you seen God work through your inadequacy?
- How can you surrender your fear to God and deepen your dependence on Him today?

Gideon didn’t see himself as a “mighty warrior,” but as he trusted God, the Lord gave him boldness. When we put our faith in the Lord, God gives us courage.

Thank God for equipping us for His work and giving us boldness.

—**Suzanne Gosselin**

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Contributor to Wonder Ink

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FOR LEADERS

GOD CALLS GIDEON

DID YOU KNOW?

WHO?

The book of Judges takes its name from its leading men and women—the judges of ancient Israel. They were individuals through whom God overthrew foreign oppression and established godly leadership.

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHAT?

Judges 6–7 tells the story of the judge named Gideon. When the Midianites were oppressing Israel, God sent Gideon to lead the Israelites in battle. Though Gideon was scared, God gave him courage. God helped him and just 300 soldiers defeat their oppressors.

WHERE?

The story takes place in Canaan, after Israel had occupied the land. The Midianites were oppressing the Israelites in their own land. Midian is the land where Moses lived for 40 years before God called him at the burning bush to deliver Israel from Egypt (Exodus 3).

WHEN?

The book of Judges is set after Joshua and the Israelites conquered Canaan and before Israel asked God for its first king, Saul. Several judges likely served at the same time in different parts of Israel. Gideon served around or after the time of Deborah.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God often fulfills His plans through unexpected people. He chose Gideon and David, even though they were the least important members of their families. Likewise, God raised up Jesus, Israel's Messiah, from the house of a carpenter in the backwater town of Nazareth.

Welcome & Curiosity Questions

SUPPLIES: Gideon Welcome Question Slide

At your start time ...

Gather the kids together and welcome them in a mighty warrior voice.

Invite kids to stand and strike a mighty warrior pose each time someone shares their answer to the Welcome Question: **Can you think of a time when you were really brave? Tell about it!**

Thank you for sharing your amazing stories of bravery! Today in God's big story, we'll see how God gave courage to someone who didn't think he had what it took to accomplish what God was asking him to do. But first, it's time to be curious!

Ask the following "I'm curious" questions. Say, "I'm curious ..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

I'm curious ...

- What does it mean to be *brave*?
- What does it mean to have *courage*?

Help kids understand the subtle difference between bravery and courage: **Bravery is defined by our actions in dangerous or difficult situations. Courage runs deeper—it's the state of our hearts when we depend on God (not just ourselves) for whatever comes next. As Jesus-followers, being courageous means trusting God in every situation.**

Declaring God's Wonder

SUPPLIES: Declaration Slide

Thank You, God, that You made me! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

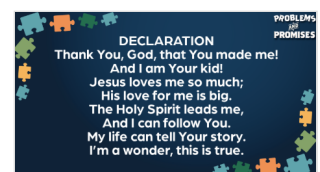
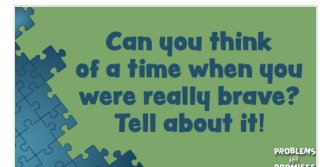
Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your



chest.

His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Belief

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible Story Picture [Option 1](#) and [Option 2](#)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week with the kids before the Bible story, to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? *Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*

God's big story, waiting for me! *Point to yourself.*

Let's start by reading part of God's big story from the Bible. We're going to read from the Old Testament.

Read [Judges 6:11–21, 36–40](#) from the Bible. Show the Bible Story Picture [Option 1](#) and [Option 2](#) to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SUPPLIES: [Gideon Wonder Truth Slide](#)

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD HELPS US BE COURAGEOUS.**
Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.



God often fulfills His plans through people we wouldn't expect! God chose Gideon, even though he was the least important member of his family, and God helped him be courageous. Many years later, God raised up Jesus, the Savior, from the humble house of a carpenter in the small, unimportant town of Nazareth. You don't have to be big or considered important by others to be a part of what God is doing on earth—you just have to trust God, and He will help you be courageous.

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

God keeps His promises forever.

—from 1 Chronicles 16:15

Display the Word of Wonder [Slide](#). Our Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series is **from 1 Chronicles 16:15**: “**God keeps His promises forever.**” Invite the kids to say the verse with you. **God promises to always be with us. Whenever we face something scary, we can be courageous because God is with us.**



Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—Point up.
- **KEEPS**—Spread your right hand out before you from left to right.
- **HIS PROMISES**—Place an index finger on your lips. Move your hand downward and open your palm.
- **FOREVER.**—Draw large circles in the air with your index finger.
- **FROM 1 CHRONICLES 16:15**—Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.

In God’s big story today, we heard how Gideon placed a piece of wool on the ground and asked God to give him a sign to help him be courageous. God promised Gideon that He would be with him and give him courage. And our Word of Wonder reminds us that God keeps His promises forever. Let’s practice saying the verse together and doing our motions.

Review the verse a few times with the motions.

- **How did God keep His promise to Gideon?** (God helped Gideon win the battle; God gave Gideon courage.)
- **How does it make you feel to know God keeps His promises forever?**

Discussion Questions

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, dry-erase marker, eraser, [Picture Sheet](#)

God showed Gideon that he was a mighty warrior because God was with him. With God's help, the Israelites defeated their enemies! God helped Gideon be courageous, and God helps us too.

I'm going to draw a simple picture of something from God's big story today. Whoever is the first to guess what I'm drawing gets to answer a question.

Use a whiteboard and dry-erase marker to draw. Draw each of the pictures as illustrated on the [Picture Sheet](#) and invite the kids to guess what you're drawing. Provide hints as needed. When a kid guesses correctly, ask them the corresponding question below.

The pictures will be:

- Gideon
- an angel
- a bed
- a sheep
- water droplets
- a scared face



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Draw a picture of Gideon. **What did God want Gideon to do in today's God's big story?** (lead the fight against the Midianites)
- Draw an angel. **What did the angel call Gideon?** (a mighty warrior)
- Draw a bed. **When did God give Gideon a sign (or miracle) to help Him trust God?** (while Gideon was sleeping)
- Draw a sheep. **What happened to the sheepskin when the ground was dry?** (The sheepskin was wet.)
- Draw water droplets. **What happened to the sheepskin when the ground around it was wet?** (The sheepskin stayed dry.)
- Draw a scared face. **What are some things that make you feel scared?**
- **Who can help you be courageous when you feel scared?** (God!)

Even though Gideon was not very brave, God gave him the courage to do what God asked him to do. Sometimes we may not feel very brave, but we can ask God to help us be courageous too.

Game: Dry, Dry, Wet

You can also play this at the end of service if you need to fill more time!

Gather the kids together in a circle. **We're going to play a game that's like Duck, Duck, Goose. But instead of saying, "Duck, duck, goose," you're going to say the words "dry" and "wet." When you don't want to pick someone, you'll say, "dry," but when you're ready to have someone chase you, you'll tap the person on the head with your fingers (like it's raining) and say, "wet." As soon as you say, "wet," you'll run around the circle and try to make it back to that person's spot in the circle before that person tags you.**

After the kids have played a few rounds, ask: **How does it feel to be chased by someone? It may be scary to be chased by someone, and you might not feel strong, fast, or brave. In God's big story, Gideon was afraid too. He was afraid to go to battle with the Midianites. But God helped Gideon be courageous by giving him signs like the angel with the offering and the wet and dry sheepskin. Remember that God can help you be courageous too!**



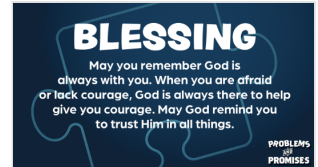
Identity

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Blessing Your Kids

SUPPLIES: Gideon Blessing Slide

Speak this blessing over your kids.



Blessing: May you remember God is always with you. When you are afraid or lack courage, God is always there to help give you courage. May God remind you to trust Him in all things.