

LIFE POINT
People can
choose to obey
God.

GIDEON OBEYED GOD

PEOPLE



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God allows me to make right and wrong choices.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Judges 6:11-40; 7:1-22

WEEKLY VERSE

We will obey God.

Joshua 24:24

UNIT VERSE

We will obey God.

Joshua 24:24

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

July 5



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Speed limits. Dress codes. Corporate policies. Manners. Homeowner associations. Elevator etiquette. Is it any wonder people get frustrated? It can sometimes seem like an unending stream of do's and don'ts. Sometimes people, even Christians, view God and His commands as “fun busters.” As we grow and mature in our faith, we come to realize that God and His commands are not the “fun busters.” In fact, God is exactly the opposite. He created fun! We can listen to and obey God because His ways are perfect and good.

By listening to and obeying God, Gideon experienced firsthand God's wisdom and power. When God called Gideon, he was threshing wheat in the wine press, hiding in fear, and avoiding the Midianites who were plundering the Israelites. An angel of the Lord spoke to Gideon, calling him a valiant warrior and assuring him that God was with him.

Gideon's response is a classic reflection of the human heart—fearful. He thought he was the youngest, weakest, and least likely person to deliver Israel. When the angel gave him a sign and then disappeared, Gideon knew God sent this visitor and built an altar on that spot.

Fear and doubt still consumed Gideon. To make matters seem worse, Gideon listened and obeyed as God instructed him to reduce Israel's army from 32,000 to 10,000 to 300. Then Gideon obeyed God and led the men into battle without a single weapon! Can you imagine going to battle with 300 trumpet-blowing, torch-carrying men shouting at their enemies?

What are the stumbling blocks that hinder you from listening to and obeying God? Ask God to help you with those hindrances.



GROUP TIME

- » **Move to music.** Distribute streamers to each child. Play “Making Decisions.” Invite preschoolers to move around the room waving their streamers as they listen to the song.
- » **Tell the Bible story.** Ask preschoolers to name choices they have had to make today. These could include clothes to wear, what to eat for breakfast, what toys to play with, and so on. Say that people make choices every day and that people can choose to obey God. Open a Bible to Judges 6. Tell the Bible story.

GIDEON OBEYED GOD

—Based on Judges 6:11-40; 7:1-22

A group of people called Midianites was causing trouble for the Israelite people. The Midianites would steal their crops. The Israelites prayed to God and asked Him for help.

One day Gideon was working with the wheat. An angel appeared and said, “God is with you.” The angel told Gideon that God had chosen him to help save his people from the Midianites. Gideon said he was not strong or powerful, but the angel told Gideon that God would be with him.

God told Gideon what to do to choose men for his army. After obeying God, Gideon had 300 men. He gave each man a trumpet and a torch. The light of each torch was hidden by a clay pitcher that covered it.

Gideon and his men surrounded the camp of the Midianites. It was late at night and very dark. Gideon and his men blew their trumpets and smashed their pitchers. They shouted. The Midianites in the camp were confused. They began to fight with one another and run away. Gideon and his men followed them and defeated them.

Gideon obeyed God and saved his people.

- » **Review the Bible story.** Display the Teaching Picture. Ask children to tell what they see. Choose a child to roll the Number Cube. Ask the corresponding numbered question on the Bible Story Review sheet. Allow time for responses. Give each child a chance to roll the cube and answer a question.
- » **Learn the Bible Verse.** Open a Bible to Joshua 24:24. Read the verse and repeat it together. Guide boys and girls to look around the room for hidden verse puzzle cards. When the cards are found, lead children to put the cards in order using the number of shapes at the bottom of each card as a guide.
- » **Wrap it up.** Point to the Unit Poster. Ask children to tell how Gideon made a right choice. Show the “Gideon Obeyed God” video. Pray, asking God to help boys and girls obey Him and make right choices.

CHOOSE

your own

SCHEDULE

Decide when to have group time; then select learning activities to use before and/or after group time.



- » Pack Items 14, 28, 31, 32, 33: “Weekly Verses,” “Unit 2 Poster,” “Number Cube,” “Bible Story Review,” “Unit 2 Verse Puzzles”
- » Teaching Picture 5
- » Music
- » Videos
- » Bible, streamers (crepe paper or ribbon), scissors, tape
- » Place the Weekly Verse marker in a Bible. Assemble the Number Cube. Hang the Unit 2 Poster near your group-time area. Cut streamers into 24-inch pieces. Cut apart the verse puzzle cards and hide in a designated area in the room.



BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- › Kids Activity Page
- › Printables: “Torch Template”
- › Tissue paper squares (red, orange, yellow), glue sticks, crayons

- › Pack Item 14: “Weekly Verses”
- › Printables: “Allergy Alert”
- › Bible, shallow pie pans of sand, copy paper, spray bottle with small amount of water, marker, magnetic letters (O, B, E, and Y)

- › Pack Item 35: “Book: *I Can Make Choices*”
- › Bible, other available books about God, flashlights

- › Teaching Picture 5
- › Printables: “Choices Cards”
- › 2 plastic hoops, masking tape, paper, markers

MAKE A TORCH

Print a Torch Template for each child.

- › Lead preschoolers to complete the Activity Page.
- › Briefly retell the Bible story, noting the items Gideon and his men used when they went to the camp of the Midianites (trumpets, torches, clay pitchers).
- › Distribute a Torch Template to each child. Guide children to wad squares of tissue paper and glue them on the flame of the torch.
- › Remind preschoolers that Gideon and his army chose to obey God. Because they obeyed God, He helped them defeat the Midianite army.
- › Print the Bible verse on a child’s torch as she chooses. (Lead older preschoolers to print the words themselves.) *(Art)*

STAMP IN SAND

Place the Weekly Verse marker in a Bible. Print OBEY in large letters on a piece of paper to use as a guide. Post the Allergy Alert.

- › Open a Bible to Joshua 24:24. Read the verse aloud. Invite preschoolers to repeat it together.
- › Say that people can choose to obey God. Comment that Gideon obeyed God, even when he was afraid. Because Gideon obeyed, God helped him. Note that people today obey God, too.
- › Encourage preschoolers to press letters in the sand to spell the word *obey*. Spray the sand lightly with water as needed.
- › Remind preschoolers they can choose to obey God. *(Nature)*

READ WITH FLASHLIGHTS

- › Guide preschoolers to explore and experiment with the flashlights. (Caution children not to shine flashlights in anyone’s face.)
- › Read *I Can Make Choices* to preschoolers. Comment that God allows us to make right and wrong choices. Talk about different choices children make each day.
- › Talk about the Bible story. Help a child turn to Judges 7 and shine a flashlight on Gideon’s name.
- › Say that Gideon and his men chose to obey God. Say that people today can choose to obey God, too. *(Books)*

CHOOSE A HOOP

Place two plastic hoops on the floor. Make a smiling face out of tape in one hoop and a frowning face out of tape in the other hoop. Print and cut apart Choices Cards.

- › Tell preschoolers they can choose to obey God.
- › Guide a child to choose a card. Read the scenario on the card. If the card reveals a situation in which the person is choosing to obey, lead the

child to hop to the smiling face hoop. If the card shows a situation where the person does not obey, hop to the frowning face hoop. Continue until all cards are read.

- › Display the Teaching Picture. Talk about how Gideon obeyed God.
- › Suggest children draw pictures of the Bible story or of people obeying God to place in the smiling hoop. (*Games*)

MOVE AROUND THE ROOM

Place the motion gameboard on the floor.

- › Open a Bible to Joshua 24:24. Read the Bible verse aloud. Say that people can choose to obey God. Remind preschoolers that Gideon chose to obey God's instructions.
- › Choose a child to toss a beanbag onto the gameboard. Play "Making Decisions" (or other music) as children move around the room using the motion where the beanbag lands.
- › Stop the music. Choose another child to toss a beanbag onto the gameboard and repeat the activity.
- › Thank preschoolers for choosing to move using the motion rolled.
- › Say that God allows people to make right and wrong choices. (*Music*)

BUILD A VERSE TOWER

Build a block tower using five blocks. Cut tape to the size of each block and place tape on the front of the blocks. Print one word (or the reference) of the Bible verse on the tape on each block: We will obey God. Joshua 24:24. Make a matching set of block words, using the same colors and sizes. Keep one set assembled and the other unassembled.

- › Assist a preschooler in locating Joshua 24:24 in a Bible. Read the verse.
- › Point to the completed block Bible verse tower. Read the words on the blocks. Guide children to assemble a matching tower. When complete, repeat the Bible verse.
- › As children build towers or other structures, display the missions pictures. Talk about how Daniel has chosen to obey God and serve the Roma people. Pray for Daniel and his work. (*Blocks*)

TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

- › Review the Bible story as children color. Talk about how Gideon and his men obeyed God. Say the Weekly Verse together.
- › Lead children to pantomime holding a torch and a trumpet. They can pretend to blow the trumpets, shine the torches, and shout together.

CLEAN UP

- › Play "Choose" as children clean up activities. Thank them for helping.

› Pack Item 34:
"Gameboards" (motion)

› Music

› Bible, beanbag

› Printables: "Unit 2
Missions"

› Bible, large plastic interlocking blocks, permanent marker, scissors, masking tape

› Printables: "Gideon Obeyed God" Coloring Page

› Crayons

› Music