

Gideon's Faith

Wednesday Plan

SCRIPTURE

Judges 6–7

MEMORY VERSE

Judges 7:2

God wins with little so the glory is his.

For the Teacher

Wednesday night reinforces what the kids learned on Sunday. Don't re-teach the whole lesson — they heard it. Your job tonight is to make it stick through review, movement, and prayer.

KEY TRUTH

God wins with little so the glory is his.

Same bottom line as Sunday, by design. Wednesday uses the exact same sentence the kids heard on Sunday. Repeat it. Have them say it back. Don't paraphrase or soften it — the repetition is the point. A kid who hears the same sentence twice in three days will remember it.

Tonight is kinetic. Sunday was reading and discussion. Wednesday is feet. The whole back half of class is the *Sent Home* game — a physical re-enactment of God shrinking Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300. Kids will be sent to the side of the room in waves until almost nobody is left standing. They will feel what Gideon felt. Don't try to make this quiet.

What to skip. Don't re-read the whole story. The kids did that Sunday. Tonight you'll only re-read Judges 7:2 — the memory verse — and re-tell the army cuts in two sentences. If a kid wasn't there Sunday, give them a one-sentence catch-up ("God picked the weakest guy in Israel, then cut his army from 32,000 down to 300, so that when they won, everybody would know God did it"), then move on.

Energy management. Wednesday is shorter than Sunday and built around a kinetic game. The *Sent Home* game gets loud, especially when you cut down to 300 — kids will protest, laugh, argue. That's fine — it's the lesson working. Bring them back down for the closing prayer and take-home card.

MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Masking tape (one strip on the floor — the "battle line")
- Two trumpets, kazoos, or party horns (any noisemaker works)
- A small flashlight (the "torch") and a paper cup (the "jar")
- **Small but Strong** prayer cards (printed in advance from this week's activities)
- Pencils

1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. Tell them:

SAY

On Sunday we learned one big idea, and we're going to learn it again tonight. Say it with me: God wins with little so the glory is his.

Have them say it back. Then again, louder. Then in a whisper.

Write it on the board.

Tell them tonight is going to be different from Sunday — they're going to use their feet, not just their mouths. But first, a quick review.

2. The Story

Quick Review

ASK

Who can tell me where Gideon was when God called him to lead the army?

Let two or three kids answer. Steer toward: *hiding in a winepress, threshing wheat, scared of the Midianites.*

ASK

How did Gideon describe himself when God called him?

The least, in the weakest clan, in his whole tribe. Nobody important.

ASK

And how big was Gideon's army at the start? How big at the end?

Write the cuts on the board as the kids find the answers:

32,000 → 10,000 → **300**

ASK

Why did God want the army that small?

You're looking for: *so Israel couldn't say "we did it." So the credit — the glory — would go to God. If a kid says "because the soldiers were bad," push back gently — no, the soldiers were fine. God shrank it on purpose.*

Say the bottom line again, with them: *God wins with little so the glory is his.*

3. The Work

The Sent Home Game

Stand the kids up in a line across the room — a tight cluster. Tell them: *you are now the army of Israel. Tonight we're going to do what God did to Gideon's soldiers.*

Lay a strip of masking tape across the room. One side is *staying in the army*; the other side is *sent home*.

Round 1 — the scared go home.

Read this aloud (Judges 7:3):

SAY

The LORD said to Gideon, "Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home." Twenty-two thousand men went home. Ten thousand stayed.

Then say to the class:

SAY

If I told you right now we had to go fight an army of thousands of Midianites — with no swords, no armor, no plan — be honest. Would you go? Or would you go home?

Tell every kid who would honestly go home to step over the line. Don't shame anybody — the point is *most of Gideon's army went home, and that's normal*. Note out loud how many are left vs how many went.

Round 2 — the water test.

Bring the "sent home" kids back to the army side. Then tell the class:

SAY

God said still too many. So God told Gideon to take everybody to the river. Watch how they drink. The ones who kneel down and drink with their face in the water — send them home. The ones who scoop the water with their hand and lap it up like a dog — keep them.

Pick a random rule the kids didn't see coming — like: *everyone whose first name has more than five letters, sit down.* Or: *if your shirt has any blue on it, sit down.* Whatever you pick, half the class should fail it.

Have the kids you picked sit down on the floor where they're standing. Then say:

SAY

You just got sent home. You didn't do anything wrong. God just cut the army down — for no reason that made sense to anybody. Out of ten thousand, only three hundred were left.

Count the kids still standing. Then ask:

ASK

If you were one of the three hundred still standing — knowing you were about to fight a huge army with just trumpets and clay jars — how would you feel?

Let a few kids answer.

Round 3 — the trumpets and jars.

Hand the trumpets/kazoos and the cup-and-flashlight to two volunteers from the standing kids. Tell the rest of the standing kids: *you are the 300.*

Walk through Gideon's plan with them:

SAY

At midnight you surround the enemy camp. At my signal, you blow your trumpet, smash your jar so the torch shines out, and shout — "For the LORD and for Gideon!" That's it. No swords. No fighting.

On your signal, have the volunteers blow the kazoos and crumple the cup loudly. Have the kids shout the line. Make it loud.

Then say:

SAY

That's how the battle was won. The Midianites woke up confused in the dark, started fighting each other, and ran. Israel never swung a sword. God won the battle with 300 men, jars, and torches.

Bringing It Back

Gather the kids back to the middle. Ask:

ASK

At the start, Gideon had 32,000 men. By the end, he had 300. If you were Gideon, would you have wanted more soldiers, or less?

More. Everybody would say more. That's normal.

ASK

But God wanted less. Why?

So the credit — the glory — would go to God, not to Israel.

SAY

When something hard is coming up in your life, you might want a bigger army — more friends, more help, more practice, more money, more time. There's nothing wrong with any of that. But Gideon's story is in the Bible to show us this: God can do the biggest job with the smallest crew,

SAY

and sometimes he picks small on purpose so that you'll know it was him who did it. God wins with little so the glory is his.

4. The Point

Small but Strong Prayer Card

Hand out the **Small but Strong** prayer cards. Have each student fill in the prompt:

God, you can use me even when I _____.

Tell them they can write or draw. They'll take it home and put it somewhere they'll see it during the week — by their bed, on the fridge, on a desk.

NOTE

While they fill out the cards, walk around. If a kid is stuck, ask them: "What's something you feel small about right now?" Help them turn it into a sentence.

Memory Verse and Closing

When they're done, have everyone come back together and turn to Judges 7:2:

SCRIPTURE

Judges 7:2

The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'"

Read it together once. Then say the bottom line one final time, with the kids:

SAY

God wins with little so the glory is his.

Close in prayer:

PRAY

God, you picked Gideon when he was hiding. You shrank his army down to 300. You won the battle with trumpets and jars and torches. We get it — you don't need us to be strong. You want us to trust you. When we look at our prayer cards this week, remind us that you do big things with small people, so that the glory belongs to you. Amen.