

The STORY

LOWER ELEMENTARY LEADER GUIDE



Each week we achieve our goal of reaching kids and their families for Christ by making programming for children

Fun, Intentional, Scriptural, and Helpful.



Fun

The fun level of our activities should reflect the fun level of our God. 28nineteen™ KIDS teaches God's Word in a way that is attractive and memorable to the children. God is not boring, and neither are we! And, if children have a great time, they will want to return ... with friends!



Intentional

We are intentional about knowing these children's names and needs. God hand-picked the children who attend your church every weekend. They are precious to Him, and they are precious to us! The focus of 28nineteen™ KIDS is always on reaching children and their families for Jesus Christ.



Scriptural

28nineteen™ KIDS is an unapologetically Bible based curriculum. In other words, we stand on the Word of God. All of our Bible Study and Worship lessons come directly from the Bible and teach our children straight biblical truth.



Helpful

Our goal is to teach children to be "doers of the Word, and not merely hearers" (James 1:22). To do this, we teach practical applications of biblical truths in each lesson. The children should leave with a challenge or an action to live their lives for Christ.

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Lower Elementary Bible Study

MAIN POINT

The Bible is so rich! Every time we read a Bible story, be it the first or the fiftieth time, God can teach us something new. To help everyone stay on the same page, 28nineteen™ KIDS narrows in on one main point from the Bible story. Everything we do intentionally teaches the Bible story and this one point.

LEADER DEVOTION

The goal of the leader devotion is to help your leadership learn the lesson personally first. Secondly, our goal is to help your leadership feel an empowerment and excitement to share what they have learned with their classes. For this reason, each lesson begins with the same devotion for all leaders on an adult level. Background information, be it historical, cultural, or Biblical, is incorporated to make the study richer in meaning for your leaders as well as for your kids. Additionally, the leader devotion helps your leadership team, be they Bible study teachers, worship leaders, or classroom helpers, to be on the same page.

ACTIVITIES

Activities help kids stay engaged in the learning process while having fun. Each activity has a specific purpose and connects to the Bible lesson and main point for the day. Teachers can easily make this connection for themselves and their kids by reading the “Make the Connection” section below each activity.

- **Welcome Activities:** Many children find it difficult to walk into a group comfortably, thus it’s helpful to have an activity that draws a child in and immediately gets them engaged. Welcome activities are designed to help all children feel they can confidently participate. These activities also serve as an introduction to the main point of the Bible lesson.
- **Crafts with Purpose:** 28nineteen™ KIDS does not have a craft for each lesson. Instead, crafts are included in lessons when they make sense and can be the most helpful to the kids as they learn.
- **Variety of Energy Levels:** Each lesson includes a variety of activities ranging in energy levels. Leaders can choose the activities that best fit the needs of their classes.

BIBLE LESSON

Bible lessons are clearly outlined into four sections: Intro, Read the Bible, Present the Gospel, and Application.



Intro: Short for “introduction,” this section helps leaders grab kids’ attention, quickly review past lessons, teach the over-arching theme of the series, and get kids excited about the Bible story.



Read the Bible: Now we get to the good stuff! In this section, leaders encourage kids to read in the Bible as they discover God’s Word for themselves.



Present the Gospel: The Bible is one big story, and it is all about Jesus! Each lesson seamlessly ties the Bible story to the truth of the Gospel. Leaders teach the Truth of the Gospel and encourage kids to respond. Because we never know how many opportunities we will have to interact with each child, we never miss an opportunity to talk about Jesus.



Application: Our goal is to teach children to be “doers of the Word, and not merely hearers” (James 1:22). To do this, we teach practical applications of Biblical truths in each lesson. The children should leave with a challenge or an action to live their lives for Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

The goal of the memory verse activities are long-term understanding and memorization of Scripture. For this reason, 28nineteen™ KIDS focuses on one verse or passage during each series. Throughout the series, kids are encouraged to memorize these verses in fun and interactive ways. Just like the activities, each memory verse section has a “Make the Connection” section to help teachers explain the meaning and practical applications of the verses kids are memorizing.

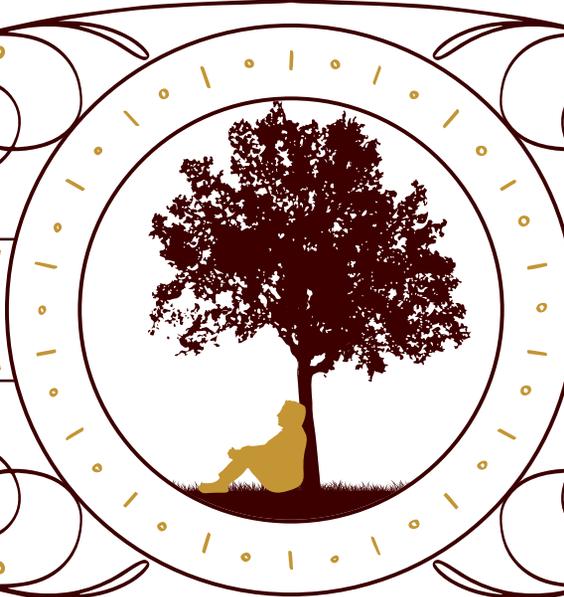


God Invites
You into
His Story.

The
STORY

Chapter 1

GIDEON



JUDGES
6-7

Proverbs 19:21

Leader Devotion

Read Judges 6-7



At this point in history, the Israelites were stuck in a vicious pattern of sin and salvation. The Israelites turned from God. God warned the Israelites of the consequences of their sins through the prophets. The Israelites ignored the prophets' warnings. God allowed oppressors to invade Israel. Israel cried out to God for forgiveness. God sent someone to deliver Israel from their oppressors. Israel turned away from God again, restarting the cycle.

The Bible makes it clear that Gideon was no one's idea of a hero. He was full of fear like the rest of his countrymen. He was the least and the last hero anyone expected, and he knew it. When God rescued Israel from the Midianites, He wanted there to be no doubt that He was the source of victory. God could have delivered Israel in any way He wanted. He did not *need* Gideon's help, He *wanted* Gideon's participation. All Gideon had to do was accept God's invitation to be a part of His story.

Once the Midianites were defeated, the Israelites offered Gideon a position of

power over them. **Judges 8:23 shows us Gideon's response: "But Gideon said to them, 'I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you.'"** Gideon knew the battle was won because of God's strength, not his. God deserved all the credit for the victory.

God is inviting each of us to participate in His story. He wants us to have more than a front row seat to the amazing things He is doing in the world: He wants us to have a role. Like Gideon, our fears can paralyze us. Gideon chose to put his insecurities aside in order to obey God.

Spend time in prayer this week, as you prepare. Is God calling you to step into His story despite your fears? Pray for His guidance and clarification on His call for your life. Confess your insecurities and take courage in knowing that God never sends us into battle alone. As He told Gideon, **"The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior" (Judges 6:12).**

SUPPLIES

The Adventures of Clark Lewis Mad Lib

Chapter 1 (pg. 87-88)

Activity 1

Paper folded into books, Art supplies

Activity 2

Gideon activity sheet (pg. 85), Markers, Music player

Bible Lesson

None

Activity 3

Painters' tape, Index cards, Markers

Activity 4

Paper bags



Activity 1: Storybook

MATERIALS: Paper folded into books, Art supplies

DIRECTIONS: Have kids work in pairs to write a short adventure story. Encourage kids to draw pictures that go with their story. After a few minutes, allow kids to share their stories with the group.



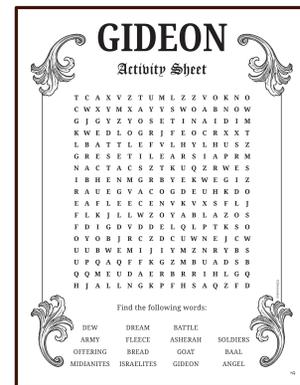
MAKE THE CONNECTION:

Everybody likes a good story. For the next few lessons, we are going to learn about God's story throughout history. God's story is BIG, and He wants YOU to be a part of it!

Activity 2: The Midianites Are Coming!

MATERIALS: Gideon activity sheet (pg. 85), Markers, Music player

DIRECTIONS: Hand everyone an activity sheet. Tell them you are having a contest! The first person to finish the activity sheet correctly wins. Play music while kids try to win the contest. After a few minutes, pause the music and yell, "The Midianites are coming!" Each time you do this, everyone must stop working and silently rush to find a place to hide. Start the music again. Continue this pattern for a few minutes before stopping to make the connection.



MAKE THE CONNECTION:

- Were you able to finish your Gideon activity sheet?
- Could you have finished faster if you didn't have to keep hiding from the Midianites?

Judges 6-7 tells us the Midianites were not good people. When the Israelites heard the Midianites coming, they stopped what they were doing and ran to hide. The people prayed to God asking Him to save them from the Midianites. Today we get to learn exactly how God rescued the Israelites from the Midianites.



The STORY

Bible Lesson



Intro

Have you ever pretended you were going on an amazing adventure? Imagine that one day, you were actually invited to go on a big adventure. Wouldn't that be amazing?! **For the next few lessons, we are going to learn about God's big adventure story throughout history. And the best part is - you're invited!**

In our Bible story today, the Israelites were living in the land God had promised to them. Unfortunately, the Israelites fell into a cycle of sin. They were surrounded by people who believed in false gods. Over time, the Israelites forgot how amazing the One True God is and chose to worship idols instead of God. They chose to sin.

God loved His people. He wanted what was best for them. When the people sinned, God sent prophets to warn them they would be punished if they did not stop sinning. The Israelites ignored the prophets, and God punished the people. Other countries invaded Israel and treated them badly. Only then, the people realized they had sinned and turned their backs on God. The Israelites prayed to God, telling Him that they were sorry. God, in His mercy, sent someone to save them. These people were called judges. This cycle was repeated over and over again in history. The people sinned, were punished, were sorry, and were saved by God's chosen judge.



Read the Bible

Today we are going to learn about one of the judges God sent to save the people, Gideon. During Gideon's time, Israel was being oppressed by the Midianites. The Midianites were a very large and very scary group of people. They took the Israelites food and livestock. When Israelites saw a Midianite coming, they would run to hide. All that hiding made it hard for the

people to do the work necessary for farming. It was a very bad time in Israel's history.

One day, Gideon was working in a well, because he was afraid of the Midianites. He was trying to get some work done in his hiding place, when an angel of the Lord came to meet him.

Read Judges 6:12.

- What did the angel call Gideon? (mighty warrior)
- What was Gideon doing when the angel talked to him? (hiding)

Gideon was not acting like a hero. He was hiding. The angel of the Lord told Gideon to free the Israelites from the Midianites.

Read Judges 6:15-16.

- Did Gideon think he was good enough to lead Israel?
- Who would be with Gideon?

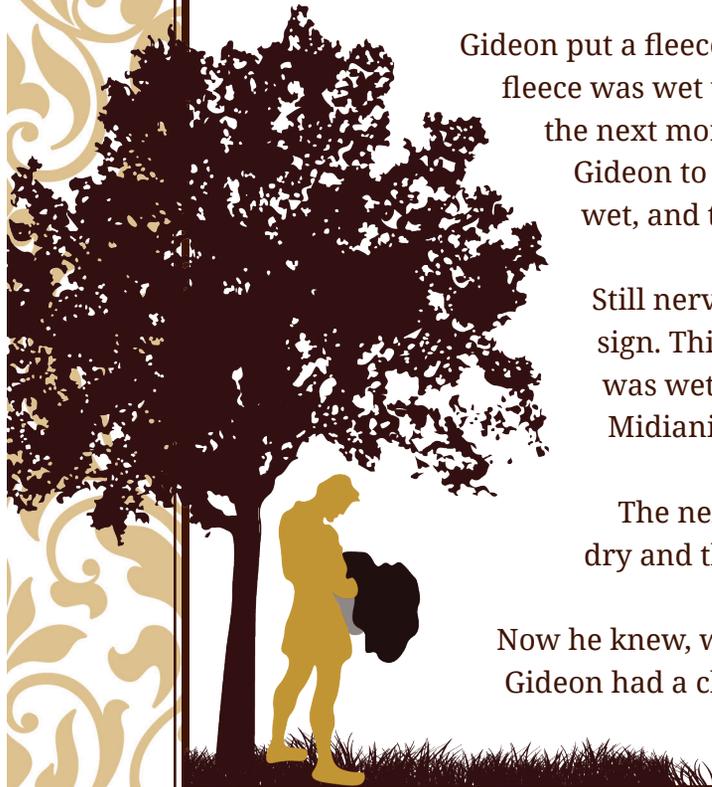
God knew He would win the battle, not Gideon. God was inviting Gideon to do something amazing with Him in His story. Gideon assembled the armies of Israel to fight the Midianites. Gideon was still afraid, so he asked God for a sign that he really was supposed to go into battle against the giant armies of Midian.

Gideon put a fleece (sheepskin) on the ground overnight. If the fleece was wet with dew, but the ground dry when he woke up the next morning, that would confirm God really did want Gideon to fight Midian. The next morning, the fleece was wet, and the ground was dry. God wanted Gideon to go.

Still nervous to fight Midian, Gideon asked for another sign. This time, if the fleece was dry and the ground was wet, then God really did want Gideon to face the Midianites.

The next morning, Gideon found the fleece completely dry and the ground soaking wet.

Now he knew, without a doubt, God wanted him to fight Midian. Gideon had a choice to make. Should he obey God and go or give



in to his fears and hide? Gideon decided to obey God and go. He accepted God's invitation.

Judges 7 tells us that Gideon started with an army of thirty-two thousand men. Gideon was ready to march his army toward the Midianite camp, but God told Gideon something very surprising.

Read Judges 7:2.

Gideon had too many people! God wanted all of the credit for winning the battle. He wanted His people to know that He was the One who saved them. God had Gideon send home anyone who was afraid to fight. Twenty-two thousand men went home. Now Gideon had to face the Midianites with only ten thousand men. Then God told Gideon to let the men drink water. Only those who brought the water to their mouths to drink, instead of dipping their faces in the pool, could stay to fight. Gideon had to send nine thousand seven hundred men home. He was left with only three hundred men to fight the giant army of Midianites.

Gideon divided his three hundred men into three groups and gave them torches, clay pots, and trumpets. The Israelites surrounded the Midianite camp at night. The men covered their torches with clay pots and waited for Gideon's signal. When Gideon sounded the charge, three hundred Israelite men broke clay pots, blew trumpets, and yelled loudly.

The Midianites were terrified!! They thought they were surrounded by a huge army. Confused, the Midianites started to fight anyone they could find. In fact, the Midianites started to fight each other while Gideon and the Israelites yelled and watched. When the Midianites had almost completely defeated themselves, Gideon sounded a second charge. The three hundred men ran after what was left of the Midianites. God won the battle for the Israelites!

God invited Gideon to be a part of His amazing plan in history. God used Gideon to save all of Israel, but first Gideon had to choose to be a part of what God was doing. He had to accept God's invitation.



God has given each of us an invitation, too. The Bible says that everyone has sinned. The punishment for our sin is death and separation from God. Thankfully, God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to save us. Jesus took the punishment for our wrong choices even though He had never done anything wrong. Now, God invites us to be a part of His family. Admit that you have sinned. Tell God that you believe that Jesus is God's perfect Son. Tell Him that you believe He died on the cross for your sins and came back to life three days later. Then choose to accept God's invitation of forgiveness and forever family. Choose to make Jesus the Lord (Boss) of your life.



Application

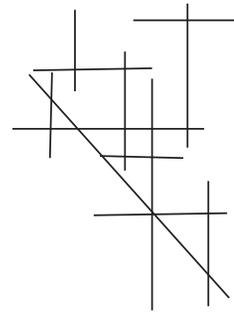
God is inviting you to be a part of His story. He wants you to join Him as He does great and amazing things in this world. YOU! No matter how you feel about yourself, no matter what others think about you, God is inviting YOU. He may ask you to stand up for someone who is being bullied. He may ask you to make a new friend at school. He may ask you to raise money for people who need help. He may ask you to invite someone to church. He may ask you to do something amazing, beyond anything you can even imagine (Ephesians 3:20). No matter what He invites you to do, will you accept His invitation? Will you choose to be a part of His amazing adventure?

God Invites You into His Story.

Activity 3: Memory Verse Maze

MATERIALS: Painters' tape, Index cards, Markers, Stopwatch

DIRECTIONS: *Before class*, write each word of the memory verse on separate index cards. Place tape on the ground in a connecting maze. You can use the diagram to the right as a guide.



During class, place the index cards along the tape maze. (You may want to number the cards to help the kids collect the cards in order.) Let kids take turns racing to collect the cards. Kids must be careful to step only on the tape lines. Each time children collect a word of the memory verse, they must yell it out before moving toward the next card. Use a stopwatch to determine the fastest maze runner, then take a seat to make the connection.



MAKE THE CONNECTION:

Our memory verse for the next few lessons is Proverbs 19:21. Let's read it together.

**“Many are the plans in the mind of a man,
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”**

Proverbs 19:21

We used many different ways to get the cards in our maze game. Everybody had a different plan to collect the cards. Did you know that we make a lot of plans every day? We plan to go to church or to school. We plan to eat pizza for dinner or spend time with a friend. All of those plans are good, but sometimes our plans change. Our verse for today reminds us that even though our plans may change, God's plans never change. He will always do what He promises He will do.

In our Bible story today, Gideon's plan was to hide, but God's plan was to save Israel. Gideon gave up his plan so he could be a part of God's plan. You can be a part of God's plan, too!

Activity 4: Gideon vs. Midian

MATERIALS: Paper bags

DIRECTIONS: Choose kids to play the parts in the script below. Hand paper bags to the Israelites to blow up and pop at the right time. Read the script pausing to allow kids to act it out. Instruct the kids to “fight” by tagging each other. If you have time, let the kids switch parts and act out the story again.

GIDEON VS. MIDIAN

One day, Gideon was hiding in a well. He was afraid of the Midianites.

The Midianites were mean people who stole food and livestock from the Israelites.

While Gideon was hiding, an angel of the Lord told him to fight the Midianites. Gideon was confused. “Who, me?”

Gideon was not the strongest or the most important man in Israel. What could he do to help the Israelites? He did not think he was the right man for the job.

The angel called Gideon a mighty warrior and told him to go.

When he was sure God wanted him to go, Gideon assembled an army of thirty-two thousand Israelite men.

God told Gideon his army was too big. Gideon told the men they could go home, if they were afraid to fight. Twenty-two thousand soldiers went home.

God told Gideon ten thousand men were still too many. Gideon told the soldiers to drink water. Nine thousand seven hundred men put their faces in the water to drink. Three hundred men used their hands to bring the water to their faces to drink.

Gideon sent all but the three hundred men home.

At night, Gideon and his army surprised the Midianites by yelling, blowing trumpets, and smashing clay pots. (Have the Israelites pop the paper bags.)

The Midianites were so afraid that they started to fight themselves!

Most of the Midianites died. Then Gideon and his army attacked the Midianites.

God won the battle for the Israelites!



MAKE THE CONNECTION:

God did an amazing thing through Gideon, because Gideon accepted God's invitation to go. God is inviting each and every one of you to do great things for Him, too. No matter how you feel or what others say, you are very special to God. He wants you in His story!

“Many are the
plans in the
mind of a man,
but it is the
purpose of
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will stand.”

Proverbs 19:21

God's Story
Is About
Him.

The
STORY