

Lesson B1.8 - God Fights For Us



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Judges 7:1-23

- Bible Characters: Gideon, soldiers, Midianites

In the time of the Judges, the Midianites were the enemies of God's people. They had stolen the land and driven the Israelites into the hills. God wanted the land returned, and he also wanted his people to rely on him, not their own strength. So God called Gideon to lead the Israelites to victory using noise, lights, surprise — and a very small army.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Judges

Before there was one king, God's people were led by many different minor leaders called Judges, such as Gideon, Deborah, and Samson. Most were military leaders who led God's forces in battle. Compared to these stories, the Book of Ruth is very peaceful.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." No accompaniment needed.

*Thank you, Jesus, for this day, for this day, for this day.
Thank you, Jesus, for this day and everything you do.*

*Help us as we learn and pray, learn and pray, learn and pray.
Help us as we learn and pray and turn our hearts to you!*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Sometimes, we may not be treated well. We feel powerless and sad. Did you know that we can turn to God for help? **God Fights for Us**. He wants all his children to be treated fairly and kindly. Say it with me: **God Fights for Us!** He cares about what's happening.

- What can we do if we are treated badly? (*Speak up, talk to a trusted adult, pray to God, etc.*)
- What can we do if we see another kid being bullied? (*Choose a volunteer to answer.*)

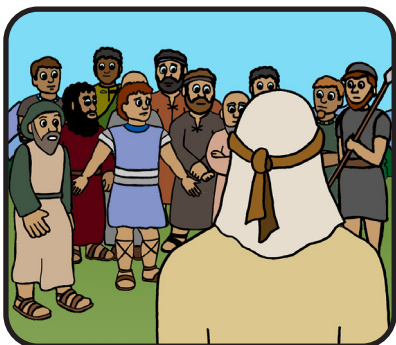
Today's story is about a time when God's people had been treated very poorly. Another group had taken their land and pushed them out of it. God didn't like this at all, and he stopped it. Why? **God Fights for Us!**

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Long ago, in the time of the Judges, a group called the Midianites were the enemies of God's people. The Midianites had stolen the land and chased God's people into the hills. So God chose a leader called Gideon to get it back.

Read the caption: Many men came to join Gideon's army — thirty-two thousand of them, in fact! But God said this army was too big.

- *Look at the picture. Which one do you think is Gideon? [He's wearing a tan outfit and a head covering. We are seeing his back as he's facing the people.]*
- *Why would the people want a big army? [Then they would feel they could win.]*



Picture 2

Tell the children: God didn't want his people to think they had won the battle by themselves, due to having such a large army. God wanted them to learn to depend on him. Therefore, he told Gideon to send some of the men away.

Read the caption: So Gideon said that those who were afraid to fight could go home. Many of them left. Now the army was much smaller.

- *Look at the faces of the men in Gideon's army. What do you think they are feeling? [Some look happy, others worried or surprised. They did not expect this change.]*
- *Why did God want a smaller army? [God wanted the people to depend on him.]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: God still thought the army was too large. So he told Gideon to take everyone down the stream. There, God chose only the 300 people who were drinking water from their hands. Everyone else was sent home! After this, they were ready.

Read the caption: Gideon divided his small army into three groups. Then, he gave each man a trumpet and a clay jar with a torch inside it.

- *Look at the picture. Which person is Gideon? What do you imagine the man in green is saying to him? [How will these things help us win a battle?]*
- *Point out the trumpet. How is it different from horns we see today? [Ram's horn]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: That night, Gideon and his army surrounded the Midianite camp. At Gideon's sign, the men blew the trumpets and smashed the clay jars. Suddenly, the torches made things bright. The small army shouted, "For the Lord and for Gideon!"

Read the caption: Gideon surprised the enemy with trumpets and torches. The bad guys were so scared, they ran away! God won the battle!

- *What do you imagine the Midianites were thinking? [Is this a bad dream? Etc.]*
- *Why would the smashing of the jars and the trumpets have scared the enemies? [It was dark and they would have thought a much larger army was there.]*

Remember today's message: **God Fights for Us!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*Gideon led a mighty army,
but God said that he had too many.
They would claim, when they had won,
the credit for what God had done.*

*So God had Gideon send home thousands,
but there was still a crowd around him.
So God subtracted 'til they numbered
one small group of just three hundred.*

*Around the camp of enemy forces,
they smashed the jars that held their torches.
With trumpets blown at God's command,
God drove the bad guys from the land.*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class craft activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Clay Jar Lanterns

Materials Needed: Small terra cotta pots, acrylic craft paints, paper plates, paintbrushes, battery operated tea light candles, cups of water, paper towels, newspaper



Instructions: Put down newspaper on the work surface. Then, give each child a terra cotta pot, cup of water, paper plate, paintbrush, and a paper towel. Squirt several colors of paint on each person's paper plate.

Invite kids to paint their pot with night images from today's story: stars, a moon, dark trees, etc. (They can rinse their paintbrush in the water and blot it on the paper towel each time they change colors.) Let pots dry and continue with other aspects of class (music, story review, etc.).

At the end of class, hand out battery operated candles and have kids drop them in their clay pots. These will NOT be smashed like in the story, but can be a little reminder of Gideon's army, their amazing victory, and how when we feel powerless, **God Fights For Us!**

h. Song (optional)

Listen to this song online. Both groups begin sitting. Each group stands up only when singing their part.

Hallelu/Praise Ye the Lord

Group 1: **Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

Group 2: **Praise ye the Lord!**

Group 1: **Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

Group 2: **Praise ye the Lord!**

Group 2: **Praise ye the Lord!**

Group 1: **Hallelujah!**

Group 2: **Praise ye the Lord!**

Group 1: **Hallelujah!**

Group 2: **Praise ye the Lord!**

Group 1: **Hallelujah!**

Group 2: **Praise ye the Lord!**

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: The enemies of God's people had taken their land and pushed them into the surrounding hills. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

For all our friends, and family too,

Please bless them, Lord, in all they do.

Thank you for helping us today

So we could learn and grow and play.

Be with us as we leave again.

And bring us back next time. Amen.