



3RD - 5TH



CONNECT TIME

Greet kids by name and play table games as kids arrive. Be sure to welcome any new families. Ask kids:

Have you ever won a game or won a prize that you weren't expecting to win? How did winning make you feel?



COUNT DOWN

Start by 9:20/10:45

Form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each group with a bag of 100 cotton balls. Tell kids that you will call out a number, and they must remove that number of cotton balls from their bag and place it in their collection bowl. When groups reach the correct number, tell them to shout, "Victory comes from God!" The first group to do so will win a point. Teams will need to place their cotton balls back into their bag and play another round. Call out the numbers 80, 50, 25, 10, and 5. At the end of the game, the team with the most points wins.

Today, we will learn how a man named Gideon was chosen by God to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites. But rather than take an enormous army to fight against Midian, God told Gideon to excuse warriors and go home. We'll see how God's people could not boast in their own strength and how Gideon learned that victory comes from God alone.

START BY
9:30/10:55

REVIEW **3** BE, LISTEN, FOLLOW



LARGE GROUP

SMALL GROUP



BIBLE REVIEW

Guide kids to open their Bibles to Judges 7. **Judges is in the Old Testament and it falls in the section of the Old Testament called History. These stories are true and help us understand how God was faithful to His people despite their continued disobedience.** Choose a volunteer to read aloud Judges 7:22 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud. Then discuss these questions:

- What happened when Gideon's men blew their trumpets?
- Who really made the enemy army get confused and start fighting each other?
- What does this story show us about how powerful God is?

God made the Midianites so confused they started fighting each other, and Gideon's small army could not have won without God's help. In the same way, God is the one who saves us from sin through Jesus and helps us live for Him.



DISCUSSION

Have kids discuss these questions with a partner sitting close to them to encourage participation; and then as a whole group.

Why do you think God chose a weak warrior like Gideon? Gideon was from the weakest tribe, and he was the youngest in his family. Gideon's weakness magnified God's power. All throughout Scripture we see how God values characteristics like humility, trust in the Lord, and obedience more than physical appearance or ability. Gideon's weakness helped him see victory comes from God alone. (Option: Read 1 Corinthians 1:27)

How can pride make us think we don't need God's help? Sometimes people believe they can be good enough to get into heaven. The Bible teaches we cannot get into heaven by being "good enough" or by earning it ourselves. God loves us, but our sin separates us from Him. That's why God sent Jesus to save us. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and came back to life. When we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior and Lord, God forgives us and gives us eternal life with Him in heaven. A verse that explains this is John 14:6: Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Why does God sometimes place us in situations that seem impossible? God's plans for His children are good, but sometimes God allows difficult situations in our lives to help us realize He is the One who gives us victory. Just as God instructed Gideon to send home many of the warriors so they would understand God gave them the victory, God will use certain situations to teach us we can do nothing apart from Him. (Option: Read John 15:5)



STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

Write the following Bible references on a dry erase board: Psalm 73:26; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Philippians 4:12-13. Form kids into pairs and provide each pair with a Bible. Have kids look up each passage and read it together as a pair.

On a separate dry erase board, make a column for weaknesses and a column for strength. Challenge kids to name some ways people show weaknesses. For example, we may have a physical weakness, like an illness; spiritual weakness, like a temptation to lie; circumstantial weakness, like insults from others. Then challenge kids to list ways God can strengthen people in their weaknesses such as giving them joy even when they're sick and forgiving others who have wronged them.

When we experience weakness, it is an opportunity to boast in God's strength. We are weak, but He is strong. God is mighty to save, and believers have victory through Jesus. Faith in Jesus gives us strength to face hardships for His glory.



Take prayer requests and allow kids to pray.



Match parent pick-up numbers, with child name tag numbers. Build relationships with parents, encourage them to take a picture of the parent recap page to go over on the ride home.