



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 played a game that you were expecting to lose, but then won? How did you feel?



TOO MANY

Start by 9:20/10:45

Form kids into two teams and direct teams to go to opposite ends of the room. Place a piece of painter's tape in the center of the room to divide the room into two sides. Provide each kid with a piece of paper and instruct them to crumple their papers into a ball. Invite each team to throw their paper balls to the other team. When they do, each team should pick up the paper balls and throw them back. Continue instructing teams to throw the balls back and forth. After 20-30 seconds, tell kids to stop throwing the balls. Then lead them to count how many paper balls they have on their side of the room. The team with the most paper balls on their side loses that round. Play again as time allows.

When the time was up, if you had more paper balls on your side of the tape, your team lost the round. Today, we will learn how a man named Gideon was chosen by God to be Israel's judge and fight their enemy. We'll see how God told Gideon there were too many warriors, and he needed to remove men from Israel's army. We'll see 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 STORY REVIEW

The book of Judges mentions 12 judges God sent to rescue His people. During this time, Israel did not have a king. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Judges 8:23. Then discuss these questions:

1. What did Gideon say when the people wanted him to be their king?
2. Who did Gideon say should be their ruler instead?
3. How can we show that we want God to be in charge of our lives?

After the battle, the people asked Gideon to be their king, but he said God is their true King. God used Gideon to show His power, but the people forgot that God was the one they should follow. God sent Jesus to be our King, who saves us from sin and helps us want to obey Him.



DISCUSSION

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

Gideon didn't feel ready to do what God asked him to do. Why can we trust God when He asks us to obey Him? God always keeps His promises and is with us, even when things feel hard. We don't have to do it on our own—God helps us and gives us the strength to obey Him.

God used a small army to defeat Israel's enemy. Why do you think God did this? God was teaching Gideon and the people that He is strong enough to keep them safe and win the battle. God didn't want them to brag, but to thank and worship Him. When we say we are weak, God shows how strong He is.

Do you think people brag about things other than God as their source of help or strength? What things? People may brag about wealth, success, fame, other people, or material comforts as their source of strength or help. Those things may be nice to have but they are not able to save us from sin's punishment. These things will eventually fail us because only God is completely trustworthy, powerful, and holy. We need Jesus to save us and should boast only in Him.



KNOCK IT DOWN

Form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each group with 10 plastic cups and a piece of paper. Direct groups to stack the plastic cups into a pyramid and use the crumpled paper from the opening activity. Challenge kids to take turns throwing their paper ball at the cups, trying to knock them down. Consider inviting each group to keep score of who knocked down the most cups each round. Play as time allows.

Gideon obeyed God and tore down the Baal altar and Asherah pole. God wants us to get rid of anything that pulls our hearts away from Him. We can ask God to show us ways we need to repent. Repentance means turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.



As time allows, pass out crayons and pencils for kids to work on the activity sheet.



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.