

Adventures with GOD!

GIDEON (B.2.FALL.5)

Biblical Reference	Judges 6:33-40
Key Verse	Proverbs 3:5-6
Key Concept	I hear the voice of God and walk in his way (being obedient to His commandments).
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain different forms of communication that God uses. 2. Telling what Gideon did to be assured of God's presence and promise. 3. Say the name of the brave follower in the story.

Life Application

God uses many ways to communicate with us, because He is faithful and wants us to hear his message. God spoke to Gideon, but Gideon wanted to be sure it was God who spoke, so he asked for a sign from God. Children will learn from this story that God does not hide his instructions. God's desire is to help us by giving us instructions, warnings and directions. **Note:** In this story, many people are mentioned. Midianites and Amalekites – who wanted to destroy Israel. Abiezer – An Israelite town in Manasseh – where Gideon lived. Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali - 4 of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	verse, pencils	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Cotton, figures, Bible	15 minutes
Craft	Crayons, glue, cotton balls, construction paper	20 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

Adventures with GOD!

INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: When children arrive, give each child a sheet with the bible verse found below. Recite verse together. Before class starts, put each word of the verse on a separate slip in the wrong order. Give children a chance to organize it properly.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways remember him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Joshua 6:33-40 Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond prior to moving into Bible Exploration.

Bible Exploration: In advance read the Bible story and decide how to tell it. You will have the balls of cotton and a container with water. Use the visual, so that children can remember the story.

Gather in a circle

1. Ask: Do you ever hear God talk to you? If so, describe it. Affirm those who share and acknowledge that it's okay for those who have not heard God talk to them because God can talk to us in many ways.

Adventures with GOD!

2. Fold your hands in a praying posture. Encourage the children to do the same. Ask: What does this remind you of? Explain: Prayer is one way we speak to God and God communicates with us. We may not always hear God speak but as we pray it maybe a time when we feel close to God. God is communicating his love for you by his presence.

3. Now hold your hands in front of you like an open book. Ask: What does this remind you of? Explain: The bible is another way God communicates with us, sometimes God gives us instructions or directions and sometimes a warning to keep us safe. Sometimes God just wants us to know he loves us.

4. Now hook your thumbs together and spread your fingers and hands apart so it looks like a dove flying. You can flap the wings and move from side to side. Ask: What does this remind you of? Explain: The dove is a symbol for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God who lives within us. Sometimes the Holy Spirit just lets us know God is with us and loves us and forgives us.

5. Point to yourself and point to each student. Ask: Who am I and who are you? Explain: God gave us each other. Sometimes God communicates through us. Sometimes you learn about God through me. Sometimes I learn about God through you.

6. Go back through the hand motions and see how well the children can remember how God communicates with us.

7. Have children go to table and color Gideon illustration as you discuss story. Explain: the Midianites and Amalekites had come to destroy the God's people the Israelites had come to destroy the God's people the Israelites. The Holy Spirit (have the children make sign of the bird with their hands). Told Gideon God was with him and not to fear. So Gideon called out to the people to come (point to you and the children and have them do the same). The people were getting a message from God through Gideon. Later Gideon prays (fold hands and have the children do the same). He asks God to give him a sign that what he had already heard the Holy Spirit (Bird hands) was true. Ask: Do you remember what Gideon asked God to do to the fleece? 1. Fleece wet/ground dry 2. Ground wet/fleece. Explain: God wanted to make sure Gideon understood that God was with him and would save the Israelites. Then Gideon trusted and obeyed. He was a brave follower of God.

Craft: Use the model on "A sign of God" and instructions on the following pages to make this craft in size larger. Provide children with the necessary material and give them instructions.

Adventures with GOD!

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATION
GIDEON



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CRAFT

A SIGN OF GOD

Although Gideon was the weaker man of his tribe and the youngest of his family, God used him to save his people. Today God also uses seemingly weak people to do his will. People who become brave

Materials: construction paper, markers, green paper, glue, brown paper, scissors
2-4 cotton balls per child.

Preparation:

1. Give each child one sheet of construction paper as the base for this craft.
2. Write at the top of the paper the words "FEAR NOT I AM WITH YOU!" underneath this write "God's sign to Gideon"
3. Using green paper cut a strip to look like grass (see illustration).
4. Cut out two shapes of a sheepskin using brown paper. Glue cotton balls on top to make a fleece.
5. Glue the fleece and grass to the bottom of the construction paper as shown below.

