

Adventures with GOD!

GIDEON (B.2.FALL.6)

Biblical Reference	Judges 7:2-7, 7:16-21
Key Verse	Proverbs 3:5-6
Key Concept	If I trust my own intelligence failure. I look to God for Him to be my guide and counselor.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Count how Gideon had to trust God to gain victory. 2. Demonstrate how the "heroes" of Gideon's army had to drink water. 3. Explain how we can prove that we trust God.

Life Application

Throughout this quarter we have been emphasizing the three steps that every brave follower of God has to do: listen to God, trust God and obey God. Every time we share another story of a biblical hero, it is helpful to repeat the three steps. In class today (and all week), children will learn ways on how they can obey God and thus demonstrate their trust in Him.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Horns, construction paper & tape or glue	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Copies of illustrations, construction paper, tape or glue	15 minutes
Craft – Clay pots	bowls with water, molding clay, wax paper, paper towels	20 minutes
Review	Review Proverbs 3:5-6	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: Children can make horns to use later by wrapping construction paper with one end smaller than the other and taping or gluing together.

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: 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.

Bible Exploration:

1. Explain: The Midianites had brought a large army to destroy the Israelites. Ask: Have you ever been afraid? Have children share. Gideon called the Israelites to help defend against the Midianites. Many listened, trusted, and obeyed God and came. But God said there were too many. God didn't want all the Israelites to go and fight. God had a better plan to scare the Midianites away. So God ask Gideon to send all the soldiers away who were afraid.

2. Have the children begin to work on the lapping soldier's worksheet. Tell them to listen carefully so they will know which soldiers to circle and color. Explain: There were still too many soldiers; in fact there were 10,000 soldiers. So God told Gideon to take all the soldiers down by the water. 300 men brought the water up to their mouth and lapped it like a dog (Have the children mimic this). All the rest 9700 knelt down on their knees and drank with their heads toward the water. God chose the 300 who brought the water up to their mouth lapping it like a dog – to defeat the Midianites. Have the children work on the worksheet as you continue. You

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may also handout the illustration of Gideon's men and Gideon's soldiers blowing their horns and raising their torches or children can work on the craft projects below.

Horn idea: You can make horns by rolling construction paper, making one end smaller than the other and taping it together.

Torch idea: Roll construction paper for a handle and tape. Cut out yellow, orange and red flames and tape to the top.

Ask: Do you remember what Gideon gave the 300 soldiers? A torch, clay pot and horn.

A torch – Have children hold up one hand as though carrying a torch.

A clay pot – mimic putting this over the torch.

A horn – with the other hand pretend to be blowing a horn.

Explain: that the clay pot covered the torch until everyone was in place and made a loud noise in the valley when they were all broken together.

Ask: I wonder what the 300 soldiers were thinking knowing they had no weapons and looking down in the valley and seeing thousands of enemy soldiers?

Explain: They were brave followers of God who listened, trusted and obeyed just like Gideon.

Ask: Do you remember what they shouted after breaking the pots? "For the Lord and Gideon". Have the class raise their torches and horns and give a shout.

Ask: What do you think the Midianites were thinking as they stood in the dark valley and heard the pots break, the soldiers shouting, the touches of fire and the horns blaring above them and all around them?

Explain: That God used this idea to save the Israelites from the Midianites. They all ran away. Not one Israelite had to fight. Not one Israelite was hurt. But this worked only because Gideon and the people listened and trusted God.

Ask: How might we follow God this week?

Craft: Clay pots – you will need molding clay, water, paper towels and waxed paper. See instructions in pages following.

Review – Recite Proverbs 3:5-6 together. You can use the handout. Be sure to allow the children opportunity to respond to this passage.

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

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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

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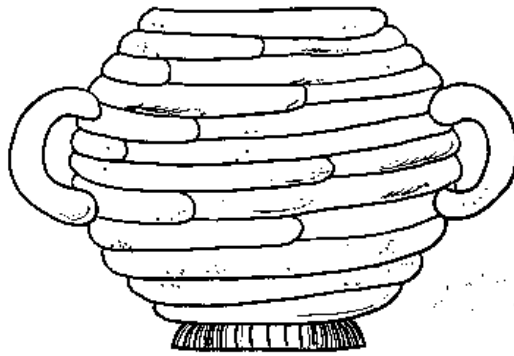
Craft - Clay pots

Materials:

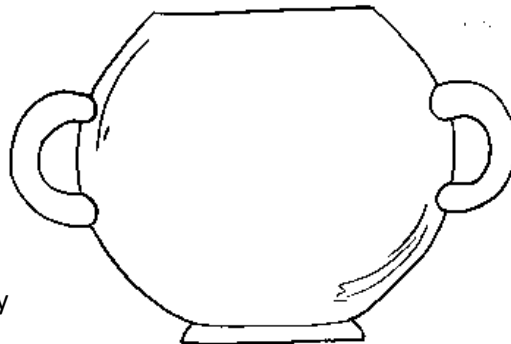
water, paper towels, molding clay or playdough, wax paper

Preparation:

1. Put clay on wax paper. Make a strip in a "snake" rolling the clay with his hands.
2. Get started by making the base of the pot or vase. Make a circle with the "snake" to form the base.
3. Continue rolling the "snake" by the sides of the pot or vase.
4. You have to keep wetting the clay while working. Put pressure on the "snake" while forming the pot or vase.
5. When dry you can paint the pot or leave natural color.
6. Alternatively once you have formed the base, can form the sides making spiral rolls (see illustration).



Coiled clay



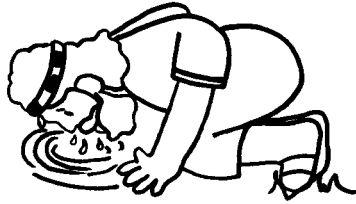
Smooth clay

Note: Provide children with the necessary material and give them instructions for everyone to do their clay pot.

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Lapping Soldiers Worksheet

Circle the soldiers who chose Gideon and color them.



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ILLUSTRATION



"... And the three groups at the same time they played trumpets and broke the jars. In the left hand carrying the torches. Trumpets AND ON THE RIGHT, and shouted "For the Lord and for Gideon" (Judges 7:20)

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ILLUSTRATION
Gideon's men



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Review
A Sign of God

**"Fear not ...
I'M WITH YOU"
God's sign to Gideon**

