

WEEK

ONE

Toddlers

Small Group

October — Week 1

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

The toddler curriculum provides one monthly Bible Story because we understand that toddlers learn best through repetition. The toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft elements that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos. We hope that by sending home a simple toddler craft, you are cueing families to begin having conversations at home with their children.

Story Time

→ Tell It

Craft Time

→ Lift the Flap Gideon

THIS MONTH
↓



Today's Bible Story

Gideon Judges 6 and 7

Bottom Line

God can help you be brave.

Memory Verse

**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the LORD your God goes with you."
Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV**

Story Time

What You Need

- ☐ Preschool Bible

Note

Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

① What You Do

→ Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story.

② What You Say

"Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (**HOLD UP THE BIBLE**) begins with a man named Gideon. He was afraid of the mean Midianite army so he, along with all the other Israelites, hid in holes in the mountain!

"The Midianites would come and destroy all the Israelites' crops, and they would do this every year for seven years. One time, Gideon was trying to hide some of the wheat so it would be safe and they would have it for food later.

"While doing so, God sent an angel to tell Gideon, 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!' God wanted Gideon to lead an army to defeat the Midianites.

"Gideon didn't think he was the right person for the job. He felt small and unimportant. But God said He would be with Gideon.

"So the Israelites took trumpets, jars, and torches and quietly walked to where the Midianites were. When they got there, they made a really loud noise by blowing their trumpets and smashing their jars! Then shouted: 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' Let's all shout that. (**WITH CHILDREN.**) 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' Great job! Now the Midianites were afraid and ran away! God helped Gideon be brave and lead the army to defeat the Midianites. God helped Gideon be brave and **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help you be brave!"

Craft Time

What You Need

- ☐ "Lift the Flap Gideon" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Brown construction paper
- ☐ Dot markers
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

Notes

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times.

Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

① What You Do

→ Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time.

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Lift the Flap Gideon" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Cut the brown construction paper in quarters, one per child.
3. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to color their paper, then help tape the brown construction paper over the picture of Gideon.
2. Lift the flap to find Gideon and his army.
3. Clean hands as needed.

② What You Say

"Look at your paper, there's Gideon. He's scared of the Midianite army and is hiding in a hole. And this picture is of Gideon and his army. Color both your pictures. (PAUSE.) Great! Now let's tape a piece of paper over Gideon in the hole. (POSITION AND PLACE A PIECE OF TAPE ALONG THE TOP OF THE PAPER.) God was with Gideon and helped him be brave. (LIFT THE FLAP.) Gideon led his army to the Midianites, and they made a loud noise and shouted, 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' And the Midianites ran away! God helped Gideon be brave, and (BOTTOM LINE) God can help you be brave!"

WEEK

TWO

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

The toddler curriculum provides one monthly Bible Story because we understand that toddlers learn best through repetition. The toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft elements that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos. We hope that by sending home a simple toddler craft, you are cueing families to begin having conversations at home with their children.

Story Time

→ Show It

Craft Time

→ Gideon, a Trumpet, and a Torch

THIS MONTH
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Today's Bible Story

Gideon Judges 6 and 7

Bottom Line

God can help you be brave.

Memory Verse

**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the LORD your God goes with you."
Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV**

Story Time

What You Need

- ☐ Preschool Bible
- ☐ "Story Pictures" Activity Pages copied on cardstock

Note

Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

① What You Do

→ Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story.

② What You Say

"Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (**HOLD UP THE BIBLE**) begins with a man named Gideon. He was afraid of the mean Midianite army so he, along with all the other Israelites, hid in holes in the mountain!

"The Midianites would come and destroy all the Israelites' crops, and they would do this every year for seven years. One time, Gideon was trying to hide some of the wheat so it would be safe and they would have it for food later.

"While doing so, God sent an angel to tell Gideon (**HOLD UP A PICTURE OF THE ANGEL AND GIDEON.**), 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!' God wanted Gideon to lead an army to defeat the Midianites. (**HOLD UP A PICTURE OF GIDEON AND GOD'S ARMY.**)

"Gideon didn't think he was the right person for the job. He felt small and unimportant. But God said He would be with Gideon.

"So the Israelites took trumpets, jars, and torches and quietly walked to where the Midianites were. When they got there, they made a really loud noise by blowing their trumpets and smashing their jars! (**HOLD UP A PICTURE OF GIDEON AND THE ARMY TORCHES AND TRUMPETS UP AND BROKEN JARS ON THE GROUND.**) They shouted: 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' The Midianites were afraid and ran away! God helped Gideon be brave and lead the army to defeat the Midianites. God helped Gideon be brave, and **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help you be brave!"

Craft Time

What You Need

- ☐ "Gideon, a Trumpet, and a Torch" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Washable ink pads in a variety of colors
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Permanent marker

Notes

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times.

Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

① What You Do

→ Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time.

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Gideon, a Trumpet, and a Torch" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to press their fingertips on the ink pads, then press them on their paper to fill in the different pictures.
2. Clean hands.

② What You Say

"God wanted Gideon to lead his army to defeat the Midianites. Gideon gave the army trumpets **(POINT)**. Press your fingertip in a color, then press it in the trumpet to fill it in. **(PAUSE.)** And jars **(POINT)** press your fingertip in a color, then press it in the jar to fill it in. **(PAUSE.)** And torches **(POINT)** press your fingertip in a color, then press it in the picture of the flames to fill it in. **(PAUSE.)** They walked quietly to the Midianites, blew their trumpets, smashed their jars, and shouted: 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' The Midianites were so afraid that they ran away! God helped Gideon be brave and lead the army to defeat the Midianites. God helped Gideon be brave, and **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help you be brave!"

WEEK

THREE

Toddlers

Small Group

October — Week 3

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

The toddler curriculum provides one monthly Bible Story because we understand that toddlers learn best through repetition. The toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft elements that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos. We hope that by sending home a simple toddler craft, you are cueing families to begin having conversations at home with their children.

Story Time

→ Draw It

Craft Time

→ Handprint Torch

THIS MONTH
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Today's Bible Story

Gideon Judges 6 and 7

Bottom Line

God can help you be brave.

Memory Verse

**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the LORD your God goes with you."
Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV**

Story Time

What You Need

- ☐ Preschool Bible
- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Washable markers

Note

Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

① What You Do

→ Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story.

② What You Say

"Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (**HOLD UP THE BIBLE**) begins with a man named Gideon. (**DRAW A STICK FIGURE, GIDEON.**) He was afraid of the mean Midianite army (**DRAW MULTIPLE STICK FIGURES OUT TO THE SIDE—SOME WITH MEAN FACES**) so he, along with all the other Israelites, hid in holes in the mountain! (**DRAW STICK FIGURE GIDEON IN A HOLE.**)

"The Midianites would come and destroy all the Israelites' crops, and they would do this every year for seven years. One time, Gideon was trying to hide some of the wheat so it would be safe and they would have it for food later.

"While doing so, God sent an angel to tell Gideon (**DRAW STICK FIGURE ANGEL AND GIDEON**), 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!' God wanted Gideon to lead an army to defeat the Midianites (**DRAW GIDEON AND GOD'S ARMY**).

"Gideon didn't think he was the right person for the job. He felt small and unimportant. But God said He would be with Gideon.

"So the Israelites took trumpets, jars, and torches and quietly walked to where the Midianites were. When they got there, they made a really loud noise by blowing their trumpets and smashing their jars! (**HOLD UP A PICTURE OF GIDEON AND THE ARMY TORCHES AND TRUMPETS UP AND BROKEN JARS ON THE GROUND.**) Then shouted: 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' Let's all shout that. (**WITH CHILDREN.**) 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' Great job! Now the Midianites were afraid and ran away! God helped Gideon be brave and lead the army to defeat the Midianites. God helped Gideon be brave and **[BOTTOM LINE] God can help you be brave!**"

Craft Time

What You Need

- ☐ "Handprint Torch" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Yellow, orange, and red washable ink pads
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Permanent marker

Notes

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times.

Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

① What You Do

→ Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time.

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Handprint Torch" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity

1. Help children cover their hand with yellow ink and press on their paper.
2. Clean hands.
3. Repeat with orange and red ink pads and clean hands.

② What You Say

"Gideon led God's army with a trumpet, a jar, and a torch. Let's complete this picture of the torch with your handprints. Let's cover your hand with the yellow ink and press it at the top of the torch. **(PAUSE.)** Now let's do that with the orange ink pad. **(PAUSE.)** And the red ink pad. **(PAUSE.)** We did it! **(CLEAN HANDS.)** Everyone say, 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' **(WITH CHILDREN.)** 'For the LORD and for Gideon!' Hooray friends! God helped Gideon be brave and **[BOTTOM LINE]** God can help you be brave!"

WEEK

FOUR

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

The toddler curriculum provides one monthly Bible Story because we understand that toddlers learn best through repetition. The toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft elements that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos. We hope that by sending home a simple toddler craft, you are cueing families to begin having conversations at home with their children.

Story Time

→ Act It

Craft Time

→ Super Kid Headband

THIS MONTH
↓



Today's Bible Story

Gideon Judges 6 and 7

Bottom Line

God can help you be brave.

Memory Verse

**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the LORD your God goes with you."
Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV**

Story Time

What You Need

- ☐ Preschool Bible
- ☐ Empty tissue box
- ☐ Little People® male figure

Note

Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

① What You Do

- Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story.
- Put a Little People male figure in the tissue box and place it on the floor near you.

② What You Say

"Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. (PLACE THE BOX NEXT TO YOU.) Today's true story from the Bible (HOLD UP THE BIBLE) begins with a man named Gideon. Would you like to meet him? Where did he go? (LOOK ALL AROUND.) Do you see him? (LOOK IN THE BOX.) Here he is. Gideon, why are you hiding in there? (PULL GIDEON FROM THE BOX AND PUT HIM UP TO YOUR EAR.) You're afraid? (LOOK AT GIDEON.) What are you afraid of, Gideon? (PUT GIDEON UP TO YOUR EAR.) Oh! You're afraid of the Midianite army? They are a big and mean army. But guess what? God wanted Gideon to lead an army to defeat the Midianites, so God sent an angel and told Gideon, 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!'

"Gideon did what God said. Gideon led God's army quietly to where the Midianites were. They made a loud noise and shouted: 'For the Lord and for Gideon!' The Midianites were afraid and ran away! God helped Gideon be brave and lead the army to defeat the Midianites. God helped Gideon be brave, and [BOTTOM LINE] God can help you be brave!"

Craft Time

What You Need

- ☐ "Super Kid Headband" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Sentence strips
- ☐ Dot markers
- ☐ Self-inking stamps
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Stapler
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Permanent marker

Notes

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times.

Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

① What You Do

→ Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time.

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Super Kid Headband" on cardstock and cut one per child.
2. Glue one cutout in the middle of each sentence strip, one per child.
3. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to decorate their headbands with markers and stamps.
2. Clean hands as needed.
3. Measure a strip around the child's head and staple with the bend closure facing out.
4. Place a piece of tape over the stapled area.
5. Encourage children to wear their headbands.

② What You Say

"Let's make a Super Kid headband! Use the markers and stamps to decorate your headband. **(PAUSE.)** Now I'm going to measure it around your head and secure the ends so you can wear it! **(STAPLE WITH THE BEND CLOSURE FACING OUT. COVER THE STAPLES WITH CLEAR TAPE.)** Look at all these brave Super Kids! God helped Gideon be brave, and **(BOTTOM LINE)** God can help you be brave!"