

May 2021, Week 5

Today's Bible Story: God's way is always perfect.

Gideon's Army • *Judges 7:1-8*

Memory Verse: "God's way is perfect." 2 Samuel 22:31, NIV

Key Question: Whose way is perfect?

Bottom Line: God's way is perfect.

Basic Truth: God made me.

SOCIAL (15 minutes): Providing time for fun interaction

Bean Bag Balance

Follow My Directions

Smaller and Smaller**

WORSHIP (10 minutes): Inviting people to respond to God

STORY (10 minutes): Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Perfect" and "Really Awesome Plan"

Bible Story

Prayer

GROUPS (25 minutes): Creating a safe place to connect

Memory Verse Voices

Fewer and Fewer

Jumping God's Way

Plate Hop

Gideon's Flip Army

Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

Parent Cue App

**Allergy Alert

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Today's Bible Story: God's way is always perfect.

Gideon's Army • *Judges 7:1-8*

Memory Verse: "God's way is perfect." 2 Samuel 22:31, NIV

Key Question: Whose way is perfect?

Bottom Line: God's way is perfect.

Basic Truth: God made me.

1. Bean Bag Balance

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Several bean bags and floor tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Tape five or six parallel lines about three feet apart on the floor in your activity area.

During the Activity: Give the children a bean bag and ask them to place it on their heads. Challenge the children to walk on the lines while trying to keep the bean bags on their heads. After a few minutes, have the children change directions on the lines and walk the other way, still with the bean bag on their head. If the bean bag falls off, instruct the child to simply replace it and continue with the activity. Repeat as desired.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hey, friends! I see lines on the floor that tell us where to go." (*Point.*)

During the Activity: "Let's walk this way on the lines. (*Demonstrate.*) While we walk, we need something to do! (*Demonstrate.*) Place a bean bag on your head and try to walk on the lines while you keep it on your head! (*Do activity.*) Awesome sauce! Now, let's go the other way!" (*Finish activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job, friends. You did what you were asked to do and went where you were asked to go! In our Bible story today, we'll hear about someone who went where God told him to go and did what God told him to do."

2. Follow My Directions

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: Butcher paper, masking tape, markers, and pom poms or foam pieces

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cover the tables with butcher paper and secure with masking tape. At each spot at the table, draw the outline of a 12 to 14-inch square. Place all of the pom poms or foam pieces in the center of the table.

During the Activity: Let the children choose a spot at the table. Tell them to listen closely to your instructions. Explain to the children that they may choose any pom poms or foam pieces they want, but they can ONLY decorate with them inside of their square. After a few minutes, instruct them to push the pieces out of the square and start over—again only decorating inside their square.

After the Activity: Sweep pom poms or foam pieces into a bin for easy clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come find a spot at the table! I have some important instructions to share. Is everyone listening? One, two, three, eyes on me!”

During the Activity: “Great job, friends! I want us to decorate with the items on the table. Do you see the square on the table in front of you? Everyone point to your square. *(Pause.)* Great job! I want you to decorate only inside your square. Got it? *(Pause.)* Great! Okay, decorate away!”

After the Activity: “You are GREAT listeners. Thanks for paying attention and following directions. Today, we’ll hear a story about someone who had to follow God’s instructions. Let’s go!”

3. Smaller and Smaller**

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the “Allergy Alert Poster and post it at the door to your room.

What You Need: “Allergy Alert Poster,” cardstock, and Play-Doh®

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Allergy Alert Poster” on cardstock and hang on the door.

During the Activity: Give each child a ball of Play-Doh. Encourage children to play with the dough. Pinch off a piece and put it in the center of the table. Play with the Play-Doh again then pinch off another piece and put it in the center of the table.

After the Activity: Talk about the idea of something getting smaller.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Come sit with me and play with the Play-Doh.”

During the Activity: “Everyone has a ball of Play-Doh. Roll it around or roll it into a snake. *(Pause.)* Now pinch off a piece and put it into the middle of the table. *(Pause.)* Everybody’s Play-Doh got a little bit smaller, but there’s still a lot to play with. Show me what you can make. *(Pause.)* Awesome! Roll your Play-Doh around or roll it into a snake. *(Pause.)* Now pinch off another piece of it and put it into the middle of the table. *(Pause.)* Your dough got a little smaller again, but can you still make something with it? *(Pause.)* You can! Show me what you can make. *(Pause.)* Super-duper!”

After the Activity: “Today in our Bible story, we’ll hear about a time when God told a man named Gideon to make his army smaller and smaller, just like you made your dough smaller and smaller.”

WORSHIP

What You Need: Bible marked at 2 Samuel 22:31, NIV. You need a music player and this month's worship song, "Perfect."

LEADER: "Hi, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. It's time for worship! This is your chance to sing out and show God you love Him. He is worthy of all our love and praise because **[Bottom Line] God's WAY is perfect! Whose way is perfect?**"

CHILDREN and LEADER: **[Bottom Line] "God's way is perfect."**

LEADER: "Yes! Let's sing together about how God is perfect.

Lead children in singing "Perfect," this month's worship song.

"I love singing with you! And I know GOD loves it when we sing to Him! The Bible teaches us that 'God's way (*point up*) is perfect,' (*two thumbs up*) 2 Samuel 22:31. (*Open hands like a book.*) Say it with me.

Say the verse and do the motions together several times.

"I'm so glad to know that **[Basic Truth] God made me**, and that I can go God's way! One more time, **whose way is perfect?**"

CHILDREN: **[Bottom Line] "God's way is perfect."**

LEADER: "Thanks for worshipping with me this month, friends!"

STORY

What You Need: Bible; *Optional Story Images*

LEADER: “Hello, everyone! I’m [your name], and I’m here to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Hold up the Bible.

“Today’s true Bible story begins with a man named Gideon. What was his name?”

CHILDREN: “Gideon!”

LEADER: “Great listening, friends! One day, God told Gideon to take an army and defeat the big powerful Midianites!

“Now, Gideon knew that **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect**, so he jump, jumped, and went God’s way. Gideon got together the biggest army he could find. They were ready to GO!

(Option: Display Story Image 1)

“But God told Gideon he had too many men. He said to make the army smaller. So Gideon said to the army, ‘If anyone is afraid, you can go back home!’

(Option: Display Story Image 2)

“Guess what? A LOT of men went home! The army got SMALLER. How will they defeat the Midianites now? But Gideon knew that **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect**, so he jump, jumped, and went God’s way.

“The army was now ready to go again. God said, ‘There are still too many men. Make the army even smaller. Take them to the water and tell them to get a drink.’

(Option: Display Story Image 3)

“Then God said, ‘The ones who put their faces down to the water should leave. The men who lift the water to their mouth with their hands should stay.’

(Option: Display Story Image 4)

“So once again, Gideon jump, jumped, and went God’s way with a even smaller army. CHARGE!

“What do you think happened? Did they win or lose? *(Pause.)* They won! Of course they did! Because God’s way is what? *(Pause.)* Perfect, yes! It’s true!

“Sometimes when God asks us to do something, it doesn’t always make sense, but we can trust that **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect.** So we can jump, jump, and go God’s way! **Whose way is perfect?**”

CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] “God’s way is perfect.”

LEADER: *(Point to the left side of the group.)* “Okay, everyone on this side, **whose way is perfect?**”

CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] “God’s way is perfect!”

LEADER: *(Point to the right side of the group.)* “Now, everyone on this side, **whose way is perfect?**”

CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] “God’s way is perfect!”

LEADER: “You’ve got it! And Gideon knew it, too. We can trust God because His way is perfect! Let’s pray and thank God for that!”

PRAYER

LEADER: “God, thank You for making each one of us. Thank You for LOVING us! We know that Your way is perfect, always. Help us follow You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

1. Memory Verse Voices

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children in your activity area. Review the memory verse together with the motions as you call out different voices to use for each repetition. Voices suggestions are Whisper, Opera Voice, Low Voice, Happy/Smiley Voice, Dinosaur Voice, and Loud Voice.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Friends, let's say our memory verse with the motions we've learned! Say it with me in your regular voice. 'God's way (*point up*) is perfect,' (*two thumbs up*) 2 Samuel 22:31. (*Open hands like a book.*)

"Great job! Now let's say our verse in a whisper voice." (*Repeat several more times using different voices.*)

After the Activity: "That was fun. You are great at using different voices. Tell me, **whose way is perfect?** (*Pause.*) Yes! **[Bottom Line] God's way is perfect!**"

2. Fewer and Fewer

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: Pom poms

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children to sit in front of you. Give each child a large pile of pom poms. As you review the Bible story, tell the children to give you some of their pom poms. Then tell them to give you some more of their pom poms. Emphasize that they have fewer pom poms now. Repeat the activity.

After the Activity: Talk about how Gideon was going to fight a battle but God kept making his army smaller and smaller. Gideon had to trust that God's way is always perfect, even when he didn't understand how it would work.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hi, friends! Come sit with me. I want to talk about today's Bible story.

During the Activity: "Our Bible story was about a man named Gideon. He was the leader of God's army, and he was leading them into battle. At first, Gideon had a large army. (*Give each child a lot of pom poms.*) Let's pretend you are Gideon and these are your soldiers. Wow! Look at all of the soldiers you have! That's great!

"But before Gideon went to battle, God told Gideon to make his army smaller. I want each of you to give me a handful of your soldiers. (*Take a handful of pom poms from each child.*) There. Now Gideon has fewer soldiers. Before Gideon could go to battle, God told Gideon to make his army smaller . . . again! I want each of you to give me another handful of your soldiers. (*Take a handful of pom poms from each child.*)

"There. Now Gideon has even fewer soldiers. How was Gideon going to win the battle with a smaller army? Gideon had to decide if he would trust God and go God's way or not trust God and run away! Do you remember what Gideon did? (*Pause.*) Gideon trusted God, and he went God's way! And they won the battle!"

After the Activity: "Sometimes, we won't understand how God's way will work, but we can always trust God because God's way is always perfect! **Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God's way is perfect!**"

3. Jumping God's Way

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children in the activity area. Encourage them to spread out and crouch down on the floor on all fours. Have the children pretend they are frogs and hop around the activity area.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Friends, come gather here with me. Everyone, put your arms out straight like this (*stretch out your arms*) and spread out. Make sure you're not touching any other friend.

"Great job. Now, let's crouch down like this (*crouch down on all fours*), and let's jump, jump, jump just like a frog! Remember, be careful not to jump near a friend so no one gets hurt! Let's jump, jump, and go God's way."

After the Activity: "That was fun! You can stand up now. You did a great job of jumping and going God's way! It's important to remember that **[Bottom Line] God's way is perfect. Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God's way is perfect.**"

4. Plate Hop

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Four different colors of plates

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the plates on the floor randomly all over the activity area. Be sure the color of the plate is facing up.

During the Activity: Ask the children to go stand by any plate they would like. Then call out a color and ask only those children standing by that plate to do ten jumping jacks. Ask the children to go find another plate to stand next to and call out a different color. Ask the children standing next to that color of plate to do eight bunny hops. Continue the activity by asking the children to keep changing plates and calling out different colors and different numbers of movements. Examples of movements: jumping jacks, bunny hops, toe touches, twists, head pats, claps, and hop on one foot.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today in our Bible story we heard about someone who went where God told him and did what God told him to do"

After the Activity: "Let's practice going where we are told and doing what we are asked to do. First everyone go stand by a plate (*Pause*) Great job! You went where I asked you to go! Now if you are standing by a red plate do ten jumping jacks. Remember, I only asked the ones who are standing by a RED plate to do jumping jacks. (*Pause*) Great job! You did what I asked you to do. Now everyone, go and find a new plate to stand next to!" (*Finish activity.*)

After the Activity: "Friends, you are so good at listening and following the right way. We can all follow God's way! **Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God's way is perfect!**"

5. Gideon's Flip Army

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: “Gideon’s Flip Army 1” and “Gideon’s Flip Army 2” Activity Pages; cardstock; paper towel tubes; glue sticks; scissors; crayons; and permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Gideon’s Flip Army 1” on cardstock and cut, one per child. Copy “Gideon’s Flip Army 2” on cardstock and cut, one set per child. Write child’s name on their tube.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their papers. At one end, wrap the blank part of “Gideon’s Flip Army 1” around the tube and glue down leaving Gideon as a flap. Wrap all pieces of “Gideon’s Flip Army 2” around the tube and glue leaving the army as flaps. Demonstrate how to fold down the army.

After the Activity: Review the story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today, we heard a story about a man named Gideon and the army God asked him to put together. Let’s make a craft to help us tell the story.”

During the Activity: “I have four strips of people for you to color. The first is Gideon, and the other three are his army. *(Pause.)* Now that you have Gideon colored, I’ll wrap it around your tube. Glue that down. Next, we’ll add the army. *(There are three strips of army.)* Watch how they can move. *(Demonstrate.)* Let’s use this to review our story.

“God told Gideon to put together an army. *(Make sure all of the army is upright.)* But God said his army was too big. Gideon said if any of the men were scared, they could leave the army. Put the first army down. *(Demonstrate.)* God saw the army and told Gideon it was still too big. He told Gideon to take the army to the water, and if they put their face to the water to let them go home. Put the second army down. *(Demonstrate.)* The army Gideon was left with was small and just the right size. Gideon went God’s way, and the army defeated the Midianites.”

After the Activity: “When God asks us to do something, it doesn’t always make sense to us, but we can trust that God’s way is perfect. **Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line:] God’s way is perfect.**”

6. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need: Bible marked at 2 Samuel 22:31, journal, fun-shaped pen, and reward stickers or handstamp

LEADER: “Today, we’ll be very quiet and tip-toe to our prayer spot. Shh . . . be very, very quiet and follow me. (*Tip-toe quietly as you lead the children to your prayer spot.*) Wow! You are great at that! Now, let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

“Our Bible story, today, was about a man named Gideon. He was leading God’s army. I’m sure there were times when they had to be very quiet, too, so no one found them! Gideon had to trust that **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect**, even when he didn’t understand what God was doing. There may be times when we have to do that, too. That’s why I’m glad we’re learning this Bible verse. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse.*)

“God’s way is perfect.’ 2 Samuel 22:31. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*) We will stand up and say that together with the motions one time, then anyone who wants to try to say it can. I have my [stickers/handstamp] ready! Just say what I say and do what I do.”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “God’s way (*point up*) is perfect,’ (*two thumbs up*) 2 Samuel 22:31.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

LEADER: “Wonderful! (*Give two thumbs up.*) Let’s sit down. When it’s your turn to say the Bible verse, you can stand up and try it. (*Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.*)

“You did it, [child’s name]! Here is your [sticker/handstamp]! (*Say this with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.*)

“When I count to three, I want everyone to show me their [sticker/handstamp]. One, two, three! Yay! I see them! I’m so proud of you! (*Clap and cheer for the children.*)

“Let’s sit down again so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*) Today, we’ll make a list with your names. I want to use it to pray that you will trust that **[Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect** and JUMP, JUMP, and go God’s way. When I say your name, it will be your turn to write your name. (*Say each child’s name and let them write their name in the journal. Encourage them to do their best and applaud them for trying.*)

“You did such a great job! Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*)

Prayer

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for (*name each child*). I pray they will trust that Your way is perfect. I pray they will be brave enough to tell others that Your way is perfect. And I pray they will go Your way,

even when they don't understand. Thank You for loving us and helping us go Your way. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

GETTING READY – THIS IS ALREADY DONE FOR THE CLASSROOM

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction (15 Minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as your preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.

1. Bean Bag Balance

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need:

- Several bean bags
- Floor tape

What You Do:

- Tape five or six parallel lines about three feet apart on the floor in your activity area.

2. Follow My Directions

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need:

- Butcher paper
- Masking tape
- Pom poms or foam pieces
- Marker

What You Do:

- Cover the tables with butcher paper and tape to the table top.
- At each spot at the table, draw the outline of a 12 or 14-inch square. You need one square per child.

3. Smaller and Smaller

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

What You Need:

- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- Cardstock
- Play-Doh®

What You Do:

- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock and hang on the door.

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. Memory Verse Voices**Hear from God | Memory Verse Review**

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need:

- No supplies needed.

2. Fewer and Fewer**Talk about God | Bible Story Review**

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need:

- Pom poms, enough for each child to have a large amount and give up two handfuls during the activity

3. Jumping God's Way**Live for God | Application Activity**

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need:

- No supplies needed.

4. Plate Hop**Live for God | Application Activity**

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need:

- Four different colors of paper plates, one each for every ten children.
If you have more than ten children, then you can double the plates. For example, if you have fifteen children then have two plates of each color.

5. Gideon's Flip Army**Live for God | Application Activity**

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need:

- "Gideon's Flip Army 1" Activity Page
- "Gideon's Flip Army 2" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Paper towel tubes, one per child

- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Permanent marker

What You Do:

- Copy “Gideon’s Flip Army 1” on cardstock and cut apart, one strip per child.
- Copy “Gideon’s Flip Army 2” on cardstock and cut apart, one set per child.
- Write child’s name on their tube.

6. Journal and Prayer**Pray to God | Prayer Activity**

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need:

- Paperclipped “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at 2 Samuel 22:31
- Journal, one per small group
- Fun-shaped pen, one per small group
- Reward stickers or a handstamp

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week’s Parent Cue card.
- Copy “Going Home” and hang on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and memory verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app**.

First Look Pinterest Page

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. <https://bit.ly/FirstLookPinterest>