

WEEK 4
EARLY CHILDHOOD

GIDEON

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD

MEMORY VERSE

"TRUST THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART. DON'T DEPEND ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. REMEMBER THE LORD IN EVERYTHING YOU DO. AND HE WILL GIVE YOU SUCCESS." PROVERBS 3:5-6



**KNOW: WITH GOD WE HAVE THE VICTORY
DO: STAY ON GOD'S WINNING SIDE**

BIBLE BOX OVERVIEW



GIDEON SERIES 3 & 4'S (PAPER-BAG) STORYTELLER GUIDE

STORYTELLER NOTES: After a brief introduction and time of worship, the storyteller brings out the story paper-bag. Inside the bag are items needed to teach the Bible lesson. The contents of the bag will change slightly each week, but the paper-bag remains the same. It represents how special we are to God on the inside, despite what we look like on the outside.

WEEKLY RESOURCES: Paper-bag items – This will represent the theme and be used throughout the series on Gideon. It will always contain, a Bible, Gideon Bible costume/accessory and sheaves of wheat. Other items will be added to the paper-bag each week. During story time, the items will be placed on a table for the storyteller to hold up and reference, as indicated on the script. To avoid unnecessary distractions, the children will not touch the paper bag items during story-time but may as part of a recap circle-time or role-play activity later on.

PROGRAM FLOW: Due to the shorter attention span of this age group, the story narration can be broken up with opportunities for the children to get up, move and interact. Worship songs can be placed within the script to allow for this and to explore the theme further through music and movement.

WORSHIP: Choose worship songs that explore themes such as trust, being made strong in God, our identity in God, feeling special, faith, courage & joy etc.

**Bayside
Kids**

BIBLE BOX OVERVIEW

GIDEON STORY EC WEEK 4



GIDEON

PAPER BAG CONTENTS



Bible



Gideon Costume

Trumpet



Clay Pot



Light/Torch



Sleep Mask

Foam Sword

or



Pool noodles





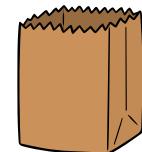
GIDEON EC WEEK 4

STORYTELLING SCRIPT 3 & 4'S (STORY IN A PAPER BAG)



Welcome friends. Our **Bible** story about **Gideon** is almost at an end, and we have saved the best until last. Today is battle day!

What do you think **Gideon's** soldiers will need to fight those mean Midianites? (*Allow for children's responses.*) These are great suggestions. Shall we look in our story **paper-bag** to find out what happens next?



*(Bring out the **paper-bag**, reveal the items and place them on the story table for the children to see. Refer back to each item as the story unfolds.)*

- **BIBLE**

We always start with our **Bible**, to remind us that this story is true, it really happened and is about **God**. As we read the **Bible**, we learn how **God** helps people to follow Him and know that they are loved.



- **GIDEON COSTUME/ACCESSORY**

And who might wear something like this? Yes, it's **Gideon**, the character we have been learning about. **God** had a special plan for **Gideon** and gave him courage to do some really scary things. With **God's** help, **Gideon** has gathered an army and is ready to surprise the mean midianites.



- **TRUMPET**

Just before **Gideon** sent his army out for the battle, he gave each man a trumpet. Shall we all pretend to hold **trumpets** in the air and make a sound like this (*demonstrate*). Ok, your turn, after 3. 1..2..3 (*trumpet sounds*). Very good.



- **EMPTY JAR**

Next, **Gideon** gave his soldiers a **jar**. I wonder what they would need this for? Maybe to drink from (*demonstrate*) No, Or...as a helmet (*demonstrate again*)? No, that would be silly. I'll give you a clue; these **jars** were made of clay so what would happen, if I dropped a **clay jar**? Yes, that's right. It would smash into lots of pieces. So, **Gideon** told his men to blow their **trumpets**, then smash the **jars**, on his order. But there is one last item **Gideon** gave his army.





GIDEON EC WEEK 4

STORYTELLING SCRIPT 3 & 4'S (STORY IN A PAPER BAG)



• LIGHT/TORCH

This is called a **torch** and it shines a bright **light**. **Gideon** gave each of his 300 men a **torch** like this. So, once the soldiers had blown their **trumpets** and smashed their **jars**, **Gideon** wanted them to hold up their **torches** in front of the Midianites to surprise them even more. Do you think **Gideon's** plan is going to work? Let's pretend to be part of **Gideon's** army. Listen carefully and follow all of my instructions, ok?



• SLEEP MASK



Now, **Gideon's** army was ready for battle. To surprise them at night, they needed to **sleep** first. Can everyone put on their **sleep-masks** and rest (*pretend sleeping/snoring etc.*)

"Wake up everyone, it's me, **Gideon**. Let's go fight the Midianites!"

The men woke up quickly and picked up their weapons. Then **Gideon's** army crept carefully in the dark, towards the Midianites camp. (*Tip-toe on the spot*).

"Don't do anything until I say." **Gideon** whispered, as they reached the camp (*march on the spot or in a big circle*).

"Look our enemies are sleeping" (*invite other leaders to play the Midianites sleeping*).

"Copy me" (*blows the trumpet*.)

"A sword for the **Lord** and for **Gideon!**" (*pretend to smash the jar and hold the torch in the air as the children copy your actions*).



• FOAM SWORDS (OR POOL NOODLES)

All at once, the Midianites jumped up, picked up their own swords (*leaders use pool noodles*) and started fighting each other in a panic. They were so scared that they ran in all different directions, as **Gideon** and his men stood and watched (*leaders fall*).

(*Jumping up and down*) "Yeah! We've done it. We've won! God has given us the victory!"

With God's help, **Gideon** and his 300 men had won the battle against the huge Midianite army, without ever touching a sword. Isn't **God** amazing!!!

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for helping Gideon to become strong and brave. He was special and we are special to You too. We love you God. You are amazing! **AMEN**

GIDEON PAPER BAG STORYTELLING 4: VICTORY

BIBLE REFERENCE: JUDGES 7:16-25

PAPER-BAG CONTENTS:

- Bible
- Gideon costume or accessory
- Sheaves of wheat
- Angel accessory
- Rock
- Tree
- Bread
- Meat
- Cup
- Trumpet
- Wool/fleece x 2
- Water spray bottle
- Tent (small)/tent peg
- Fear emoji picture
- Toy dog
- 300 number

STORYTELLER

Additional Items (Week 4):

- Trumpet
- Empty jar
- Flashlight
- Sleep mask
- Foam swords (or pool noodles)

WORSHIP:

Hi friends, I can't wait to worship with you today. Let's stand and sing together.

Rise and Shine Joyful Hearts

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Kids**

PAPER-BAG STORY

I can't believe we have nearly finished our story about Gideon. And we've saved the best until the end. Today is battle day!

What do you think Gideon's soldiers will need for the fight? (Allow for children's responses) These are great suggestions. Shall we look in our story (paper bag) to find out?

- **BIBLE**

We always start with our Bible, to remind us that this story is true.

- **GIDEON COSTUME/ACCESSORY**

Gideon is the character we have learned about and how God helped him to do brave things.

- **TRUMPET**

Just before Gideon's army went out to fight, he gave each of them one of these. I bet you know how they will use these don't you? Can you all pretend to hold your trumpets in the air and make the sound of a trumpet call (demonstrate).

- **EMPTY JAR**

Um, this looks a bit strange. I wonder what an army of soldiers would need something like this for? Maybe to drink from (demonstrate) No, it wasn't for that reason. As helmets? (demonstrate again). No, that would be silly. Let me give you a clue; these jars would have been made of clay. What would happen if I dropped something made of clay? Yes, that's right. It would smash into lots of pieces. So, Gideon told his men to blow their trumpets, then smash the jars on the ground. But there is one more item Gideon gave out.

- **FLASHLIGHT**

Once the soldiers smashed their clay jars, Gideon wanted them to shine these torches in front of the Midianites so there would be lots of bright lights to make them all confused. Do you think Gideon's plan is going to work?

I think we should be part of Gideon's army, don't you? Remember to listen and follow all of my instructions.

- **SLEEP MASK**

But just before Gideon's army set off to the Midianite camp, they did something else. Shall we look in the paper-bag to find out what?

First, Gideon's army got some rest. Let's get some sleep! (Model sleeping motion for children to copy).

"Ok, everyone wake up, it's me Gideon. Time to go fight the Midianites."

All Gideon's men woke up quickly and got ready to leave for the Midianite camp. It was still nighttime, so it was hard to find all their weapons.

So, Gideon and his army crept carefully towards the Midianite camp. (Tip toe on the spot).

"Now don't do anything until I say. Follow me" (everyone marches on the spot or around in a big circle).

"Here we are, at the enemy camp. Look they are all sleeping" (Other leaders could play the Midianites sleeping).

"Copy me" (blows the trumpet) (Shouting) "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" (children blow their trumpets, echo the chant and smash their jars).

- **FOAM SWORDS (OR POOL NOODLES)**

All the Midianites jumped up in shock, picked up their own swords (leaders use pool noodles) and started fighting each other in a panic. They were so scared that they ran in all different directions as the Israelites stood and watched.

(Midianites immediately get up and start fighting each other in the middle of the circle until they all lie dead on the ground).

(Jumping up and down) "Yeah! We've done it. God has helped us win! He has given us the victory!"

With God's help, Gideon and his 300 men won the battle against the huge Midianite army without ever touching a sword. Isn't God amazing!!!

WORSHIP:

I Might Be Small – Allstars Kids Club

God Has a Plan – Lifeway kids

It Might Get Loud

CRAFT

WEEK 4: GIDEON'S ARMY DEFEATS THE MIDIANITES JUDGES 7:16-25

God used an ordinary man to do something extraordinary. With just a trumpet, torch and a jar, the Israelites were able to defeat a great army with only 300 men. In this activity, the children will make a craft that will serve as a reminder of how Gideon's army defeated their enemy in an amazing way.

SUPPLIES:

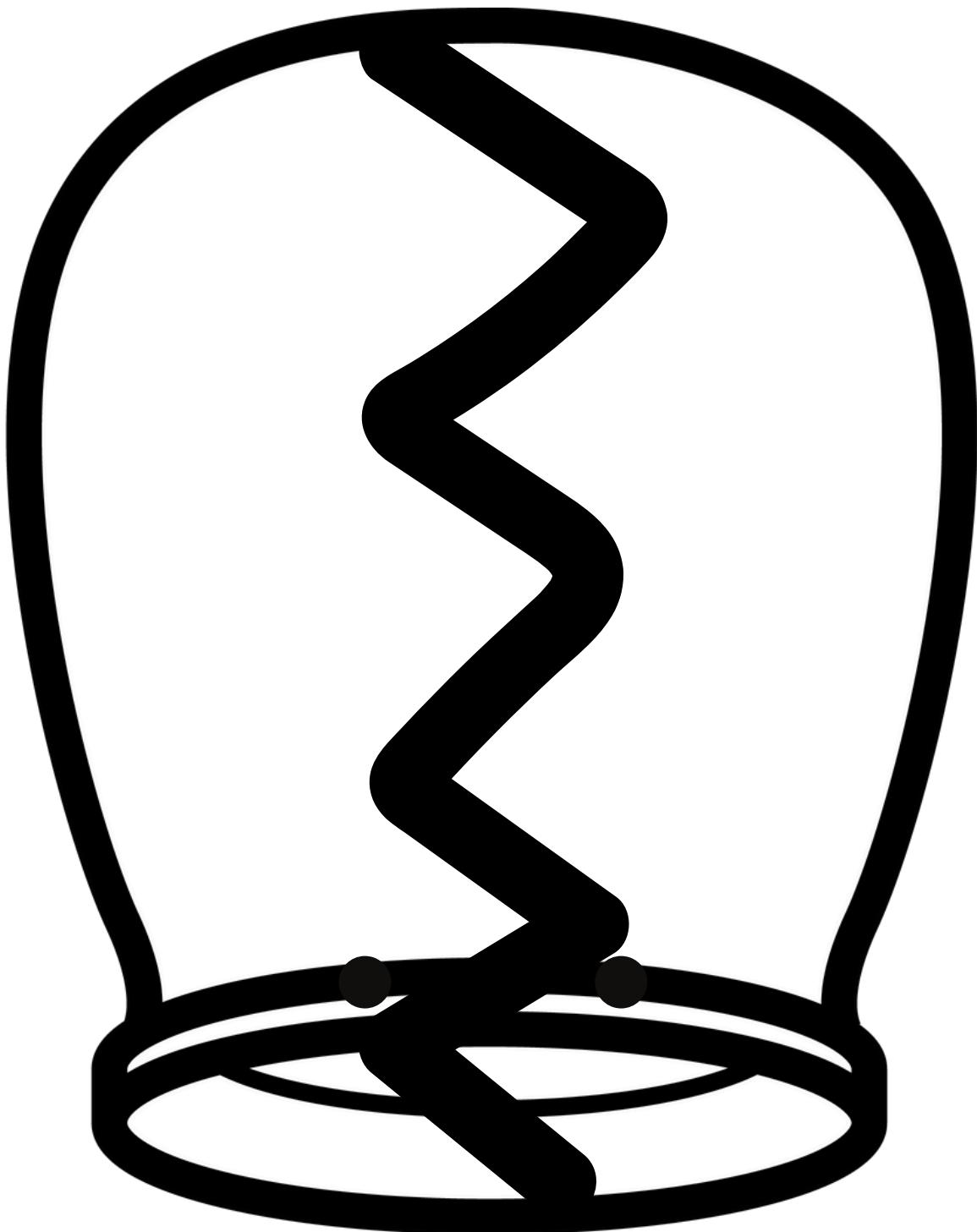
- Printable pre-cut torch, flame, jar
- Metal brads (paper fastener)
- Markers or crayons



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each kid a torch, flame, and jar template.
2. Help kids write their names on the back of the flame.
3. Allow them to color the torch and jar as they would like.
4. Put a brad through the holes of the torch and jar.
5. Open the cracked jar to reveal the torch.
6. Tell the children that Gideon's army blew their trumpets and shouted, "*a sword for the Lord and for Gideon*" and their enemies ran away. (Judges 7:18-21)
7. Remind the children that God can use ordinary people to do extraordinary things.





ACTIVITY

WEEK 4: GIDEON'S ARMY DEFEATS THE MIDIANITES JUDGES 7:16-25

KNOW: WITH GOD WE HAVE THE VICTORY

DO: STAY ON GOD'S WINNING SIDE

TITLE: MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY-ROCK VERSE SCRAMBLE

THE CHILDREN WILL LEARN A SMALL SECTION OF THE MEMORY VERSE FROM PROVERBS 3:5-6

EACH DAY.

"TRUST THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART...." (PROVERBS 3:5)

SUPPLIES:

- PRE- CUT PAPER ROCKS- OPTIONAL VERSE WRITTEN
- SELECTION OF PAPER
- SHARPIE



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. HAVE KIDS HELP YOU WRITE EACH WORD FROM THE MEMORY VERSE SECTION ON EACH ROCK (TRUST, THE, LORD, WITH, ALL, YOUR, HEART)
2. PLACE THE ROCKS UPSIDE DOWN ON THE FLOOR AND SHUFFLE THEM AROUND.
3. TAKE TURNS TIPPING OVER A ROCK REVEALING THE WORD UNDERNEATH
4. WHEN ALL 7-WORD ROCKS HAVE BEEN TIPPED
5. HELP THE CHILDREN PUT THE ROCKS IN ORDER AND READ THE MEMORY VERSE OUT LOUD TOGETHER.



God has the victory.
When we stick with
God will we win.



300 MEN

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Week 4

1. Have you ever won something? How does it feel to win?

Responses will vary but may include games, sports or competitions etc.

2. God helped Gideon win the battle with the Midianites. How do you think Gideon felt?

Happy, relieved, surprised, proud, and excited.

3. Why do you think God wanted Gideon's army to win?

Because Gideon loved and followed God. He could show His power through Gideon too.

4. God promised to be with Gideon. How does God promise to be with us today?

Through God's son Jesus, who came to save us.

5. How would you like God to make you brave like Gideon?

Responses will vary but may include, fears of the dark, spiders, being alone, getting sick etc.

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Kids**