



Gideon and the Fleece

Lesson Aim: To know God is really with us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Watches Over Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Judges 6:12-17, 36-40; 7:19-21

What He has done: God proved He was there to Gideon.

Key Verse: Judges 6:12

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Romans 8:38-39

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." "The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalm 121:1, 2, 4, 8

Unit 7: The King Who Watches Over Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
33	Deborah Leads the Israelites, Judges 4:4-9, 13-16	God sent Deborah as a judge to lead Israel.	To understand the role of judges in our lives.
34	Gideon and the Fleece, Judges 6:12-17, 36-40; 7:19-21	God proved He was there to Gideon.	To know God is really with us.
35	Samson and His Strength, Judges 14:5-6a; 15:12-15, 20	God restored Samson's strength.	To know God can use us regardless of our circumstances.
36	Ruth and Naomi, Ruth 1:16; 2:8-12; 4:14-17	God provided Boaz for Ruth to be her kinsman-redeemer.	To understand the role of a redeemer.
37	Samuel and the Ark of God, 1 Samuel 5:1-4; 7:3-5, 12-13	God protected the people from their enemies.	To know the power of God's presence.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 44:1-8. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for always being with us. Help us trust Your plan as we teach the children that You are the One who wins our victories for us. To You be the glory. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Shrinking Army	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Lift Up My Eyes" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am with You" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" "Not by Might" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "How Great Thou Art" "How Great is Our God" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Songs 4 Worship Kids Volume 1 Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz
		Worship Scripture Reading: Judges 6:12	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 34 King City Chronicles script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Judges 6:12-17, 36-40; 7:19-21	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters, fabric that looks like sheep's wool
		Christ Connection: Romans 8:38-39	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Small piece of fleece, W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Lift Up My Eyes," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Cookies In Milk	Cookies and milk (or a drink and snack that are popular to combine in your area)
	Up to 10	Craft: "Give God the Glory" Mosaic	Standard-size sturdy paper, several colors of tissue or other paper, glue or glue sticks, optional: scissors
	Up to 10	Game: The Circle of Judges	Five standard-size sheets of white paper, pencils, markers, optional: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Lift Up My Eyes," CD player
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Watch Tag	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Hot Potato Scramble	Sturdy brown paper, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Lift Up My Eyes," CD player, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite instrument?

GAME: SHRINKING ARMY

Purpose: To introduce the idea that God reduced the army's number to bring glory to Himself.

Supplies: Four signs labeled 1, 2, 3, and 4

Prepare: Post one of the signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

I have an unusual way of choosing a very small army of helpers for today. It's called "Shrinking Army." Play this variation of Four Corners.

Directions:

1. The teacher or a helper stands in the middle of the room and counts aloud to 10 with his or her eyes closed.
2. Children rush to stand in different corners before the teacher says, "10."
3. The teacher calls out one of the four corner titles.
4. All the children in that corner sit down.
5. Continue playing until only a few children remain standing.
6. Ask those children to help you in serving snacks or in a similar task.

"Shrinking Army" is a fun way to choose a small group of helpers out of our group. Today, you will hear about God sending Gideon to battle the Midianites. God wanted Gideon's army to be very small so everyone would know God was the reason for their victory.



The King who watches over us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

We worship God as the King who watches over us. He is always watching over us. Sometimes, it is hard to remember that—especially when things are not going well. Today, we will hear about a man named Gideon who asked God for proof He was with Him. Have you ever felt like that?



Over the years, God has proven to Gideon and to many, many others that He truly is with us. He never leaves us. He watches over our coming and going now and forevermore. That is part of our Bible Memory Verse Song! Let's sing that right now. Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Lift Up My Eyes."



Read Judges 6:12. **Many churches have a special greeting to remind everyone God is with them. The first person says, "The Lord is with you." The other person says back, "And also with you." Let's try that now.** Worship leader says: "The Lord is with you." Children respond: "And also with you." **Now, turn to your neighbor and greet them in the same way.** Children greet each other.



Let's give Him our offerings and thank Him for being with us. Collect offering as "How Great Thou Art" is played as background music. You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God watching over us.



Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 34.



God proves He is with Gideon

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned God sent Deborah to be the leader and judge for His people, the Israelites. Who did Deborah send to chase Sisera and the Canaanite army down the mountain? (Barak and the Israelite army.) **What happened?** (The Canaanite army ran away!)

If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.). For Bible Timeline Review information, see the Got Time? segment of this lesson. **Soon after Deborah was gone, God's people, the Israelites, did wrong in the eyes of God again. So, God allowed the Midianites to make their life very hard.** If a map is available, point out the Jezreel Valley in the south of Israel's lower Galilee region. **For seven years the Israelites hid in caves while the Midianites ruined their land. When the Israelites cried out to God for help, God sent an angel of the Lord to tell Gideon to be their judge and lead them against the Midianites.**



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Judges 6:12-17, 36-40; 7:19-21. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Judges 6:12.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read Judges 6:12-17, 36-40.

Let's see how Gideon defeated the Midianites, just as God promised, with only 300 men and some very unusual weapons! Read Judges 7:19-21.



God is with us
THE WAY

What did the Lord tell Gideon to do? (Save the Israelites from the Midianites.) **Why did Gideon think he was not strong enough to battle the Midianites?** (He was the smallest in his family, his family belonged to the weakest tribe of Israel.) **Have you ever had to do something that seemed impossible to you?** (Children respond.) **In times like that, why does it help to know God is really with you?** (Children respond.)

What did the angel of the Lord first say to Gideon? (“The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!”) **Gideon asked the angel, “If the Lord is with me, why has all this happened to us?” Gideon felt that by allowing the Midianites to take over their land, the Lord had left the Israelites. Have you ever felt as if the Lord has left you?** (Children respond.) **Have you ever asked God why He sometimes allows bad things to happen to us?** (Children respond.) **This is a very difficult question only God can answer. We do know that in hard times God can strengthen us and bring us closer to Him. When Gideon asked these questions, the Lord answered, “Go in the strength I have given you. I will be with you.” God wants us to trust Him even when bad things happen. We can ask God to help us do that.**

Gideon asked for proof God was with him. What proof did he ask for? (He asked God to send dew to wet the fleece but not the ground.) Display a piece of fabric that looks like sheep’s wool. **Fleece is sheep’s wool. Have you ever been outside early in the morning when the ground is covered with dew?** (Children respond.) **If you leave fleece on the ground outside overnight, what do you think will happen?** (The ground and fleece will both be wet.) **What happened to Gideon’s fleece?** (It was soaked, but the ground was dry.)

Gideon asked God to prove again that He was really there—this time to soak the ground with dew but keep the fleece dry. Was God angry with Gideon for asking a second time? (No.) **Is God angry with us when we ask Him for something more than once?** (No.) **Do you remember a time when God showed He was with you?** (Children respond.)

What three unusual weapons did Gideon’s 300 men use? (Trumpets, empty jars, and torches.) **Why do you think the Midianites ran away when they heard 300 trumpets and loud crashes and saw 300 lights surrounding their camp?** (They must have thought they were surrounded by a giant army.) **How do you think this victory helped the Israelites know God was with them?** (Without God, the Israelites would have lost because they were outnumbered by the Midianites.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

All through history, God has shown us in many ways that He is with us. Jesus came and lived on the earth as a man to be with us and to save us. No matter what we face, God is with us. For all who believe in Jesus, nothing can separate us from His love.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Romans 8:38-39. **Let’s see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Romans 8:38-39.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a piece of fleece. Just as Gideon used fleece to prove God was with him, keep this in a special place to remind you God is with you. Remember to give God the glory for every good thing He does through you!

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #34. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Gideon's army blowing their trumpets and raising their torches.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Lift Up My Eyes," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: COOKIES IN MILK

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

Snack Suggestion: Cookies and milk (or a drink and snack that are popular to combine in your area)

Who likes to dip cookies in milk? (Children respond.) **People sometimes like to dip their cookie in milk to make the cookie taste even better. Let your soaked cookie remind you of the soaked fleece Gideon found after he asked God for a sign. Imagine how Gideon felt when he saw God had soaked the fleece and he knew God was with him.**

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: "How has God shown you He is with you?"

CRAFT: "GIVE GOD THE GLORY" MOSAIC

Purpose: Use small paper "tiles" to create a mosaic message and picture showing the lesson aim.

Supplies: Standard-size sturdy paper, several colors of tissue or other paper, glue or glue sticks, optional: scissors

Prepare: On a sheet of sturdy paper, print **"Give God the glory!"** in large outlined letters for the children to fill in with small pieces of colored paper.

How did God make Gideon's army smaller? (He told Gideon to send home anyone who was afraid or got down on their knees to drink water.) **God wanted the glory for the victory. That means God wanted everyone to know He was the reason they won the battle. Why did God get the glory for Gideon's victory against the Midianites?** (God helped them win with only 300 men and an unusual battle plan.) **Why should we give glory to God?** (He is with us watching over us and helping us with our challenges.) **Let's make mosaic pictures to remember to give God the glory for every victory.**

Directions:

1. Children choose one favorite color of paper to represent the small army God chose for Gideon to take to battle.
2. Cut or tear many small pieces of that color and glue them inside the outline of the words "Give God the glory."
3. Cut or tear many small pieces of various colors and glue them in the space around the words.

Just as you have used small pieces to create an important message for you to remember, God used a small number of soldiers to win the battle with a very unusual battle plan! To win the battle, they knew God had to be with them! We can give God the glory for every amazing thing He does!

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: THE CIRCLE OF JUDGES

Purpose: Children create a visual reminder of the pattern repeated in Israel during the time when the judges led Israel.

Supplies: Five standard-size sheets of white paper, pencils, markers, optional: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Lift Up My Eyes," CD player

In the days when the Israelites had no king, God gave them judges to lead them. For years, Israel repeated this pattern of events. (Read list in box below.)

1. **The people did wrong in God's eyes.**
2. **God let them suffer the consequences of their wrongdoing.**
3. **They cried out to God for help.**
4. **God gave them a judge to lead them in doing things God's way.**
5. **When the judge later died, they returned to doing wrong in God's eyes.**

Let's create a circle picture of this pattern of events. Then, we will look for that circle in the lives of Deborah and Gideon.

Directions:

1. Divide the children into five groups.
2. Give each group one sheet of paper, a pencil, and some markers.
3. Assign one of the descriptions in the box above to each group.
4. Each group collaborates to draw a representation of their description on their paper.
5. **Optional:** Play Bible Memory Verse song as background music while groups draw their pictures.
6. Groups gather and explain their drawings.
7. Place them in the correct order in a circle shape on the floor.
8. Choose a volunteer to collect and shuffle all five papers.
9. Give each group a turn to put the five drawings in order while the teacher keeps time.
10. The fastest group chooses the location for displaying the circle in the room.

Teacher Tip: For an added challenge, cut each picture into 2 or more pieces for children to fit back together when putting the five drawings in order.

What were the 5 events in this circle pattern during the life of Deborah? Give hints.

1. After Joshua was gone, the Israelites did wrong in God's eyes.
2. For 20 years, God let their enemy, the Canaanites, make their lives hard.
3. The people cried out to God for help.
4. God sent Deborah as a judge. She led them to victory over Sisera and the Canaanites.
5. When Deborah was gone, the Israelites returned to wrongdoing.

What were the 5 events in this circle pattern during the life of Gideon? Give hints.

1. After Deborah was gone, the Israelites did wrong in God's eyes.
2. For 7 years, God let their enemy, the Midianites, make their lives hard.
3. The people cried out to God for help.
4. God sent Gideon as a judge. His small army led them to victory over the Midianites.
5. When Gideon was gone, the Israelites returned to wrongdoing.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."
"The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalm 121:1, 2, 4, 8

GAME: WATCH TAG

Purpose: Children learn and practice the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse by playing a game of tag.

Supplies: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster

Just as God watches over you to help you, the Watchman in this game helps you learn each part of the Bible Memory Verse.

Directions:

1. Point out that each sentence of the Bible Memory Verse is a verse. Say all four verses together.
2. Choose one child to be "the Watchman." The Watchman chases and tags other children.
3. Tagged children must freeze and say one of the four sentences of the Bible Memory Verse to play again. By the end of the game, encourage children to say the sentences from the Bible Memory Verse without looking at the poster.
4. Children take turns as the Watchman.

GAME: HOT POTATO SCRAMBLE

Purpose: In this variation of the Hot Potato game, children quickly pass their paper potatoes around the circle. When the music stops, the children put the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse in order.

Supplies: Sturdy brown paper, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Lift Up My Eyes," CD player, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: From sturdy brown paper, cut 8 potato shapes. Divide the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse into eight phrases. Write a different phrase on each potato. Display the Bible Memory Verse poster. For groups smaller than 8, cut 4 potatoes and put a verse on each potato.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a large circle.
2. Repeat the Bible Memory Verse several times together.
3. Scramble the order of the paper potatoes ("hot potatoes").
4. Give a hot potato to 8 of the children in the circle.
5. Teacher begins chanting or playing the Bible Memory Verse song.
6. As if the potatoes are too hot to hold, each child quickly passes hot potatoes to the child on their left and receives hot potatoes from the right. Continue passing potatoes until the song is stopped.
7. When the teacher stops the song, instruct the children who have a hot potato to race to the center of the circle and place their hot potatoes in the correct order.
8. If time allows, repeat steps 3-8.

Teacher Tip: For non-readers, replace key words such as eyes, hills, watches, sleep, and earth with drawings or pictures. Another option would be to use four potatoes and write the number 1, 2, 3, or 4 on each potato. When the music stops, the children with the potatoes recite the four verses in order.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Judges through Esther. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.) Let's go back to the time of Joshua. Joshua led God's people after Moses. He conquered the Promised Land. For a while, the people obeyed God.

Deborah (Circa 1350 B.C.) After Joshua died, the Israelites did wrong in the eyes of God, so He allowed their enemies to make their life hard. When they cried out to God for help, He sent Deborah to lead them and be their judge. What did Deborah do for the people? (She helped them solve disagreements and led the Israelites in defeating the Canaanite army.)

Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) Why did Gideon put the fleece out overnight? (To test and see if God was with him.) What three unusual weapons did Gideon's 300 men use? (Trumpets, empty jars, and torches.) What did the Midianites do when they heard 300 trumpets and loud crashes and saw 300 lights surrounding their camp? (They ran away.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Judges through Esther:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 card for Kings & Kingdoms Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Judges – Esther: Deborah (Circa 1350 B.C.) > Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) > Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) > Ruth > Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) > Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) > David (Circa 1020 B.C.) > Solomon (Circa 970 B.C.) > Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.) > Ezra (Circa 500 B.C.) > Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) > Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)

Teacher Tip: To view Bible Timeline and lessons from Genesis through Joshua, see Year One, God of Wonders Lessons 22-47.