



Gideon Goes to Battle

Lesson Aim: To know we can trust God's plan.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Watches Over Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Judges 7:17-21

What He has done: God gave Gideon and His people a victory.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Blow our trumpets."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Unit 7: The King Who Watches Over Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
33	Deborah, the Judge, Judges 4:4-5; 5:7	God gave the Israelites a judge named Deborah.	To know God gives us judges.
34	Gideon Goes to Battle, Judges 7:17-21	God gave Gideon and His people a victory.	To know we can trust God's plan.
35	Samson and the Gate, Judges 13:5; 16:2-3	God made Samson strong.	To know God makes us strong.
36	Ruth and Naomi, Ruth 1:8-18	God gave Ruth and Naomi a special friendship.	To know God gives us special friends who worship Him with us.
37	Samuel and Eli, 1 Samuel 3:1-10	God called Samuel.	To know we should listen to God.

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."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a trumpet or horn
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Blow our trumpets."
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 Can Do Everything" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "It's Praise Time" "I Will Listen" "I Am with You" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" "I'm in the Lord's Army" "How Great Is Our God" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarment Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 34
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Judges 7:17-21	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Judges 7:21 Visual: A trumpet or toy horn or a picture of one
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Gideon's Torch	Small paper plate, paper streamers (red, orange, and yellow), stapler and staples, labels or white paper, tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Let's Blow Our Trumpets!	"Gideon's Torch" crafts, trumpets (kazoos, paper tubes, cups, or imaginary trumpets)
		Game: Trust God's Plan	Bible, trumpets (kazoos, paper tubes, cups, or imaginary trumpets), pennies (one for each child), offering basket (or other container)
		Snack: Trumpet Time	Horn or tube-shaped snack
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 7, Lesson 34 Color This Story: "Gideon Goes to Battle"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Judges 7:17-21	None
	Up to 10	Game: Jesus Gives Me Strength!	Soft ball for rolling
	Up to 10	Game: "God's Strength" Memory Pass	Bible open to Philippians 4:13, wood block or small toy
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about trusting God's plan

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Blow our trumpets **THE WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____**. **I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a trumpet or horn. **Let this sticker of a trumpet help you remember to trust God's plan. Gideon and his army trusted God's plan and blew their trumpets. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse, "Blow our trumpets."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Blow our trumpets."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- "Blow"** The right hand starts at the mouth in a fist and then as the mouth blows air outward, the hand opens and moves away from mouth.
- "our"** With the right hand in a cup-shape, fingers together, start the right hand at chest level on the right side and arc hand across the body ending at the left side.
- "trumpets."** With the left hand in a fist at the mouth, the right hand outlines the shape of a horn by swooping from the mouth upward and outward.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Blow our trumpets," Judges 7:18. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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 "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to God as the King who watches over us. He watches over us as we praise Him and as we give our offering. Let's do both as we give our offering and sing about God's promise to watch over you. Play: "I Am with You" as background music while collecting the offering.

God watched over a man named Gideon when he told his army to blow their trumpets. That sounds like our Whisper Verse. Let's whisper, "Blow our trumpets." Review Whisper Verse together: "Blow our trumpets." Include sign language.

Let's blow our trumpets and sing about our great God. Sing: "How Great is Our God" as you pretend to blow trumpets.



Do you think Delbert and Lello know anything about trumpets? Let's call them out here and see! Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 34.



God gave Gideon and his army the courage and strength to bravely blow their trumpets. God gave Gideon the victory. Sing: "I Can Do Everything."

God watched over Gideon's army. Did you know you can be in the Lord's army? If you love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind, then you are in the Lord's army. Soldiers in the Lord's army help everyone love God. Sing: "I'm in the Lord's Army."



Gideon goes to battle

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;

Point to eyes.

My mouth quiet as can be,

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

I will listen to hear,

Cup hand around ear.

How God loves you and me.

Hug self, point to others and then self.

Last time, we learned Deborah was a judge who sat under a palm tree and helped God's people decide what was right and fair. Today, we will hear how Gideon and his army trusted God's plan to win the battle. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Judges 7:21.

WATCH THE WORD: JUDGES 7:17-21

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold a trumpet or toy horn or a picture of a trumpet. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- One day the Lord told Gideon,
- "My army you shall lead.
- Stand them in a circle 'round the enemy.
- And I'll give you the victory."

- So Gideon gave everyone a trumpet,
- And a jar with a light inside.
- He said, "Watch me. Do what I do.
- And shout the battle cry!"

- They blew their trumpets and broke their jars,
- And held their lights up high.
- The Lord gave Gideon the victory,
- And the enemy ran away and cried.

What was the Lord's plan for Gideon's army to do with their trumpets? (To blow them.) Gideon said, "We will blow our trumpets!" That's our Whisper Verse. Let's say that together: "Blow our trumpets." Include sign language or hand motions.



When Gideon and his army blew their trumpets, what did the enemy do? (They ran away and cried.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Judges 7:21 from the teacher's Bible.



Trust God's plan

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: GIDEON'S TORCH

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of Gideon going to battle.

Supplies: Small paper plate, paper streamers (red, orange, and yellow), stapler and staples, labels or white paper, tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: Cut eight 5-inch red, orange, or yellow paper streamers. Bunch four streamers together and staple them at one end to make flames. Make two bunches. On a label or slip of paper, print: **"Gideon Goes to Battle" Judges 7:17-21.**

Options: Use a paper snow cone cup or small cone-shaped drinking cup instead of a plate. Use bunches of tissue paper instead of streamers.

Directions:

1. Color plate and label.
2. Attach **"Gideon Goes to Battle" Judges 7:17-21** label to plate.
3. Roll paper plate into cone shape (colored side out) and secure with tape to make a torch shape.
4. Tape two sets of flames to the inside edges of the torch.

Craft Discussion:

- **What did Gideon tell his army to do?** (Blow our trumpets.)
- **That reminds me of our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **The trumpets made a loud noise. What else did the army do to make noise?** (They shouted and smashed their jars.)
- **Then the army held up the lights that had been inside their jars. The lights were called torches. Hold up your torches, just like Gideon and his army.** Children hold up torches.
- **What did the enemy do when they heard the loud noise and saw the torches?** (They ran away and cried.)
- **God had a plan to help Gideon win the battle and Gideon trusted God's plan.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: LET'S BLOW OUR TRUMPETS!

Purpose: Children will act out the story of Gideon going to battle.

Supplies: "Gideon's Torch" crafts, trumpets (kazoos, paper tubes, cups, or imaginary trumpets)

Let's pretend you are the soldiers in Gideon's army and I am Gideon.

Directions:

1. Teacher and children hide torches and trumpets behind their backs.
2. **Watch me. Do what I do!** All stand at attention watching "Gideon."
3. **Blow your trumpets!** All blow trumpets.
4. **Break your jars!** All stomp on imaginary jars.
5. **Raise your torches.** All hold torches up high.
6. **Shout, "For the Lord and for Gideon!"** All shout "For the Lord and for Gideon."
7. **Shout "Hooray!" Watch the enemy run away!** All clap, shout "Hooray!" and blow their trumpets.
8. Children take turns being Gideon and leading the army through steps 2-7.

GAME: TRUST GOD'S PLAN

Purpose: Children will show they trust God by following His plan in the Bible.

Supplies: Bible (bookmark Psalm 66:8, 1 Chronicles 16:29, and John 15:7), trumpets (kazoos, paper tubes, cups, or imaginary trumpets), pennies (one for each child), offering basket (or other container), worship CD, CD player

Gideon showed he trusted God's plan. We can trust God's plan, too. He tells His plan in the Bible. Let's show we trust God's plan by doing what God tells us to do.

Directions:

1. As you read each Bible verse, turn to that page in your Bible to show the children the words you are reading come from Bible.
2. Turn to 1 Chronicles 16:29. **"Bring an offering," 1 Chronicles 16:29.**
3. **God's plan is for us to give Him an offering.** Give a penny to each child to put in the offering basket. Choose a child to collect the offering using the basket.
4. Turn to John 15:7. **"Love each other," John 15:7.**
5. **God's plan is for us is to love each other. Let's hug to show we love each other!** Teacher and children gather together for a group hug.
6. Turn to Psalm 66:8. **"Praise our God," Psalm 66:8.**
7. **God's plan is for us to praise Him. Praise God with your trumpets!** Children blow trumpets.
8. **Let's praise Him with our voices.** Lead the children in marching around the room, blowing their trumpets, and singing while you play a worship song.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: TRUMPET TIME

Purpose: Children enjoy a horn-shaped snack to remind them of the trumpets Gideon's army used in battle.

Snack Suggestion: Horn or tube-shaped snack (For example: Bugles brand snacks)

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank you for our blessings. Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **God gave Gideon a plan to win the battle. Did Gideon trust God's plan? (Yes.) Did Gideon and his army win the battle? (Yes.)**
 - **Gideon's army trusted God's plan, too. Let's pretend that our snacks are trumpets. Let's blow our trumpets like Gideon's army did!** Blow into horn-shaped snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "Blow our trumpets."
 - **God has a plan for you, too. Where can you find God's plan? (In the Bible.)**
 - **When you follow God's words in the Bible, you are trusting God's plan!**
 - **Will you trust God's plan? If so, blow your trumpet!** Blow into horn-shaped snack.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank you for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Gideon's Torch" craft. Tell someone how Gideon won the battle with trumpets and torches.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how you can trust God's plan.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Gideon Goes to Battle." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Can Do Everything" as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: JUDGES 7:17-21

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the Bible Story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **One day, the Lord told Gideon,** (Point to heaven.)
- **“My army you shall lead.** (Salute as a soldier.)
- **Stand them in a circle ‘round the enemy.** (Stand up straight as a soldier.)
- **And I’ll give you the victory.”** (Grasp and shake own hands high in victory.)

- **So Gideon gave everyone a trumpet,** (Raise imaginary trumpet in right hand.)
- **And a jar with a light inside.** (Hold imaginary jar in left hand.)
- **He said, “Watch me. Do what I do.** (Point to self.)
- **And shout the battle cry!”** (Cup hands around mouth as if shouting.)

- **They blew their trumpets and broke their jars,** (Do Whisper Verse motions.)
- **And held their lights up high.** (Raise left fist high as a torch.)
- **The Lord gave Gideon the victory,** (Grasp and shake own hands high in victory.)
- **And the enemy ran away and cried.** (Cover face as if weeping.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13

GAME: JESUS GIVES ME STRENGTH!

Purpose: Children will realize Jesus gives them strength.

Supplies: Soft ball for rolling

The Bible says, “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”

Directions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Teacher rolls the ball to a child.
3. The child holds the ball and says an activity that is hard for that child to do. (Tying a shoe, riding a bike, sharing toys, counting, reading, swimming, etc.)
4. Everyone says to the child with the ball, **“Jesus can give you strength to child’s activity.”**
5. Child rolls the ball to another child. Continue playing until each child has a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: "GOD'S STRENGTH" MEMORY PASS

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bible open to Philippians 4:13, wood block or small toy

Teacher Tip: If there are more than 10 children, begin each new round with the child who finished the last round to make sure each child has a turn holding and passing the block. For very large groups, divide into two circles that play simultaneously.

Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Now, let's take turns saying it one word at a time until we've said the whole verse.

Directions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Give the wood block to the first child.
3. Teacher says, "I." As the children repeat the word, "I," the child holding the wood block passes it to the next child in the circle.
4. Teacher says, "can." As the children repeat the word, "can," the child holding the wood block passes it to the next child in the circle.
5. Continue passing the block until the children have repeated the entire verse.
6. Play again. Each time you play, try to pass the block and say the Bible Memory Verse faster.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about trusting God's plan.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 7, Lesson 34: Gideon Goes to Battle

PONDER! God had an unusual battle plan for Gideon and his army. Read Judges 7:17-21 with your family to see how Gideon trusted God's plan. What did Gideon do to win the battle? Where can you read about God's plan for you? Look for it in Jeremiah 29:11.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for having a plan for me. Help me to always trust Your plan. Amen."

PLAY! Get the whole family to act out the story of Gideon going to battle. Use your "Gideon's Torch" craft or flashlights for your torches and kazoos or paper tubes for your trumpets. Take turns playing Gideon who gives the commands, the army who blows their trumpets and raises their torches, and the enemy who runs away and cries.

Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse: Philippians 4:13

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."