



Gideon Defeats the Midianites

Lesson Aim: To give God the glory for our victories.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Watches Over Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Judges 7:2-7, 16-21

What He has done: God made the army small to glorify Himself.

Key Verse: Judges 7:2-3a

THE WAY

Christ Connection: 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

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 know God watches over His people.
34	Gideon Defeats the Midianites, Judges 7:2-7, 16-21	God made the army small to glorify Himself.	To give God the glory for our victories.
35	Samson and His Strength, Judges 14:5-6a; 15:12-15, 20	The Holy Spirit gave Samson strength.	To know God gives us power.
36	Ruth and Naomi, Ruth 1:16; 2:8-12; 4:14-17	God provided blessings for Ruth and Naomi.	To know God can bring good from hard times.
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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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 7:2-7, 16-21	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: 1 Corinthians 15:57, 58	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Small piece of fleece, Daily Ways, basket, 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 gave Gideon the victory

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. Did God give them the victory and free them from their enemy, the Canaanites? (Yes! The army chased the enemy 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, He allowed the Midianites to make their lives 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.**

When God came to Gideon to ask him to lead the army, Gideon wanted to be sure God was with him. He asked God for proof twice. First, God proved He was with Gideon by covering a fleece with dew while the ground stayed dry. The next night, God proved He was with Gideon by doing the opposite thing—He made the ground wet and the fleece stayed dry. Gideon knew without a doubt the Lord was with Him. Now, let's see the strange way God chose the men of Gideon's army.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: Judges 7:2-7, 16-21.

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 7:2-7, 16-21.



Give God the glory for our victories

THE WAY

Gideon had gathered a large army of men, but God wanted Gideon to have a much smaller army to prove it was God alone who won the victory. How did Gideon make the army smaller the first time? (God told him to send home all the men who were afraid to fight.)

God wanted an even smaller army, so He told Gideon to take the remaining 10,000 men to the water. How did God choose the men who would still be in the army? (By the way they drank the water.) **If you were at the edge of a fresh stream, would you kneel down to drink or would you cup it into your hands, lapping it up from your hand to your mouth like a dog?** (Children respond.) **Only 300 men lapped it up with their hands. God chose this small group of men for the battle. Why do you think God chose such a small group?** (Children respond.) **The Lord told Gideon He would use a small army so Israel could not boast about the strength of its army.**

What three unusual weapons did Gideon's 300 men use? (Trumpets, empty jars, and torches.) **Gideon put the torches inside the empty jars. What was God's battle plan for Gideon and his small army?** (To surround the enemy camp at night, blow trumpets, break jars, and raise their torches to scare the Midianites.)

In most armies, there are many men and just a few trumpet players. What do you think the Midianites thought when they heard the 300 trumpets and loud crashes and saw 300 lights surrounding their camp? (Children respond.) **When the Midianites saw the lights and heard so many crashes and trumpets, they must have thought the Israelite army was much bigger than it really was. What did the Midianites do?** (They ran away crying.) **They thought they were surrounded by a giant army, so they ran away.**

God wanted to make sure everyone knew He was the one who gave the Israelites the victory. When have you won a victory or reached an important goal? (Children respond.) **What were the things God did along the way to give you that victory or to help you reach your goal?** (God gives us skills, prepares us, and gives us what we need to follow Him.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Even though his army was small and the battle plan involved unusual weapons, Gideon trusted that God would win the victory. What should we do as we face challenges in our lives? (Children respond.) **Let's see what the Bible says about that.**



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 1 Corinthians 15:57-58. **Let's find this scripture.** Read 1 Corinthians 15:57-58.

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!

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 34 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

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.