

City SG - June 9-10, 2018

Bible Story: He'll Be There for You (Gideon) • *Judges 6–8*

Bottom Line: God can use you no matter what.

Memory Verse: "I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."
Psalms 27:13, NIV

1. How Confident Are You?

What You Need: Beanbag or Small Stress Ball, paper, pen (1 per bin)

What You Do:

- Gather the group to sit in a circle.
- Select a kid to be the scorekeeper.
 - Instruct the scorekeeper to write down the name of every child in the group on paper provided.
 - Pull the scorekeeper aside (so the rest of the group can't hear) and inform her of the points system (see below). The point system should be kept secret so it doesn't affect how the rest of the group answers.
- Select a kid to be "It," turn his back away from the group, and cover his ears.
- Silently give the beanbag or other small item to a kid inside the circle and instruct him to hide it behind his back.
- Instruct the rest of the kids in the circle to place their hands behind their backs as well.
- Tell It to return and stand in the center of the circle.
- Explain that someone has the beanbag hidden in his hand.
- Give It about 15 seconds to look around at the rest of the group and try to determine who might have the beanbag.
- When the 15 seconds are up, ask It to name who she believes is hiding the beanbag.
- Then ask, "How confident are you?" The possible answers are: very confident, confident, or not confident.
- If a kid answers correctly, let the scorekeeper award the following points:
 - 3 points if their answer was "Very Confident"
 - 2 point if their answer was "Confident"
 - 1 point if their answer was "Not confident"
- Continue play, allowing different kids to be It and tally points as time and interest allow.
- When time is up, total points and declare the winner by saying, "[Kid's name] is the MOST confident player!"

What You Say:

"That was fun! Sometimes you were confident and gave the WRONG answer. Sometimes you weren't so confident and gave the right one! **[Transition]** Today we heard about someone who was chosen for a VERY big job and he wasn't confident at all. Let's be confident!"

2. The Illustrated Story of Gideon

What You Need: White board with marker and eraser (one per group), paper (1 per child) pens

What You Do:

- Hand out a piece of a paper and a pen to each kid in the group
- Gather the kids around the white board to review the story as you draw the suggested pictures listed below.
- Encourage the children to draw the pictures on their own papers, filling the page any way they choose.
- Make sure they know they do NOT need to erase between each picture but simply add to the page each time.

Story Review:

1. *Draw several X's down the side of the page. Circle the bottom X.* An angel appeared one day to Gideon to tell him that he would save his people from their enemy, the Midianites. Gideon said, "But I'm from the weakest family, and I'm the weakest among them." The Lord said, "I will go with you."

2. *Erase the X's and write "32,000" in large print.* Gideon called on men to join him and an army of 32,000 men assembled. But that was too many. *Draw an X through 32,000.*

3. *Write "10,000" underneath the "32,000."* God told Gideon to dismiss anyone who was fearful. So 22,000 walked away, leaving only 10,000 to fight. But that was still too many. *Draw an "X" through 10,000.*

4. *Draw "300" underneath the other numbers.* God told them to head to the water for a drink and to separate those who lapped up the water like dogs from those who cupped the water to their mouths. That left 300 men to fight.

5. *Draw "100," "100," "100" at the bottom of the board.* That night, Gideon broke up the army into 3 groups of 100 to fan out around the Midianite camp.

6. *Erase the "100s" and draw a sword.* Were Gideon's men armed with swords or weapons?

7. *Draw an X over the sword and draw a trumpet and a jar.* Nope! At Gideon's signal, they blasted their trumpets and broke their jars to light the torches inside. The enemy camp was so confused, some ran away and some even fought each other. The Lord brought victory to the Israelites that day!

What You Say:

"Gideon NEVER expected that God would choose him. You might say that he was the least confident person ever—certainly not one to think he could lead an entire army to fight the big, bad Midianites. But God can do anything and He can use anybody. Even if you think you aren't strong enough or smart enough or whatever enough, God can still use you if you're willing. You can have confidence in knowing that **[Bottom Line] God can use you no matter what.**

[Make it Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when you felt REALLY unprepared or inadequate to accomplish something or to do the right thing in a tough situation. How did God use you and prove that He was with you? Maybe you stood up to a bully as a kid or refused to cut corners and cheat in order to win.)

"I'm so thankful that God doesn't look at what I think I can or can't do. God just wants me to be willing and then when I listen and obey, I know it isn't me doing something in my own strength, it's God. He gets all the credit. So remember, **[Bottom Line] God can use you no matter what.**"

3. Not So Confident Charades

What You Need: “Not So Confident Charade Suggestions” Activity Page (one per group)

What You Do:

- Explain that in the pile of cards are examples of situations that might make kids feel “not so confident.”
- Select the kid with the closest birthday to draw from the pile first.
- The first kid will act out the scenario for the group to see if they can figure out what the situation is.
- Be prepared to give suggestions if the kids need help figuring out what their actions should be. They can also come up with a couple “lines” to say as they act out the situations.
- Once the group correctly guesses the scenario, select another child to choose a scenario and act it out for the group.
- Continue until all the suggestions have been selected.
- If time allows, let the kids come up with their own suggestions and act them out for the group.

What You Say:

“It’s easy to feel confident about things that you’re good at or the things you’ve done before. But new things, scary things, things that seem impossible . . . well, we’re not always so confident about those. The truth is, for all of your life—even when you’re an adult like me—you will face situations that test your confidence. That’s when you need to remember something BIG. The key to having confidence is remembering that it doesn’t come from you and what you can do. Real confidence comes from God and your faith and trust in Him. Remember **[Bottom Line] God can use you no matter what.** But you have to be willing to let him guide you, and you have to trust that He will help you.”

4. No Dice

What You Need: Large craft sticks (one per kid), eight dice (4 per group), Bibles

What You Do:

- Select a volunteer to read Psalm 27:13 to review this month’s memory verse.
- Give each kid a craft stick.
- Divide the group into two teams and have them line up, shoulder to shoulder.
- Each team will need four dice and a Bible.
- The first kid in each line will be the “Balancer” and the second kid in each line will be the “Caller.”
- Hand the Bible to the Caller and the dice to the Balancer.
- When you say, “Go,” the Balancer will place his craft stick in his mouth and carefully balance four dice—one on top of the other—on the end of his craft stick.
- Once the dice are stacked, the Caller must recite the memory verse.
- When finished, pass the dice to the Caller, who will then become the Balancer.
- The next person in line becomes the new Caller and will hold the Bible and say the verse.
- Continue down the line of kids.
- Once the dice reach the end of the line, the original first kid becomes the Caller.
- As soon as that kid finishes reciting the verse (while the last kid in line balances the dice), the entire team should sit down.
- The first team to sit down is the winning team!

(have them keep the stick they had in their mouth, they can write Psalm 27:13 on it to remind them of the verse)

What You Say:

“That was fun! Were you more confident about calling out the verse or balancing the dice? *(Pause for responses.)* I love this verse because it reminds me that God IS good and that we can have confidence in Him. We can know for sure that what God says is true. Even if we don’t feel confident, we can ask God to help us and remind us that He is with us. Because **[Bottom Line] God can use you no matter what.**”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to gather up in a tight huddle, shoulder to shoulder.
- ASK:
 - Is there something that you need God to help you with?
 - Do you ever feel like Gideon and wonder how God could use you?
- Explain that you will give them a few moments to pray silently about that on their own, and then close the group in prayer.

What You Say:

“Heavenly Father, sometimes it is hard to do the right thing or the hard thing when we aren’t confident. But we trust You. Help us to remember that just like You were with Gideon, You are with us too. Help us to have confidence and remember that You can use us no matter what. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”