

Alley SG—June 19th-21st, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Use Somebody (Gideon) • Judges 6–8

Today's Bottom Line: God can use you no matter what.

Today's Key Question: How could God use you?

Monthly Memory Verse: *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.* Psalm 27:13 (NIV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Props (1 Random Set per Group)

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- In the center of the circle, place several objects.
- Challenge kids to come up with creative ways they could use the object. For example: What could you do with a simple piece of paper? Make a card, create an airplane, wad it into a ball and play basketball, etc.
- To make it competitive, award a point for each creative use kids give.

2. Opening Activity

What You Need: A Yardstick (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to get in a line.
- Play a game of limbo with the group.
- Hold a yardstick about four feet from the ground.
- Challenge kids to pass under to the stick by walking forward and bending backward to clear the stick.
- If anyone touches the stick they are out.
- Once everyone has had a turn going under the stick, lower the stick 3-6 inches and challenge kids to pass under it again.
- Continue lowering the stick until there is only one player left.

What You Say:

“You did a great job going *under* the stick. It is an *understatement* to say this game would be much harder if you had to play *underwater* or even *underground*. Our large group story today was about Gideon- he had the odds stacked against him, you could say he was an *underdog*.”

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Butcher paper sheet (1 per group, per service), markers

What You Do:

- Divide a butcher paper into four sections. Label three of the sections:
 - Things kids enjoy doing
 - Things kids do well
 - Kids are:

- Ask kids the following questions and write down a few answers for each question in the corresponding section of the butcher paper.
 - What is something you enjoy doing?
 - What is something you do well?
 - Think of one of your friends. What is one word you would use to describe them?
- Label the fourth section of the butcher paper “Not Me” and ask: What are some reasons kids give for not doing something challenging?
- To help prompt discussion, ask:
 - Raise your hand if you like to play sports. Ask the kids with their hands raised: What would be a reason you wouldn’t try out for a team?
 - Raise your hand if you don’t like to play sports. Ask the kids with their hands raised: What would be a reason you wouldn’t try out for a team at school?

What You Say:

“We all have things we can do like *(list some of the example kids do well)* and there are things we enjoy doing like *(list examples)*. But sometimes we focus on reasons why we think we can’t do something and forget God can use us for amazing things . . . and He can use us for ordinary things. “

4. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Prepared dice (1 per group), White Board/Marker/Eraser (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Teams take turns answering the questions you read to them from the list below.
- Award a point to the teams for each correct answer they give.
- After a team answers correctly, they roll the die.
 - If teams roll a blank square, no action is required.
 - If they roll a “give your team an extra point” square, they get a point.
 - If they roll “give your opponent two extra points,” the other team gets two points.
 - If a team rolls the “Underdog” square, they lose three points.
- Once teams have answered all the questions, declare a winner.
- Questions:
 - Who were the Israelites’ enemy? *(Midianites)*
 - What’s one way the Midianites bullied the Israelites? *(they stole the Israelites crops and livestock, stole their food, destroyed their land, etc.)*
 - Why did God send an angel to Gideon? *(to tell Gideon God was going to use him to defeat the Midianites)*
 - True or False: Gideon was selected by God because he was strong and from a powerful family. *(False)*
 - What were one of the signs Gideon asked from God? *(Feel free to repeat this question since Gideon requested multiple signs)*
 - How many men started out in Gideon’s army? *(32,000)*
 - How many ended up staying? *(300)*
 - What did Gideon overhear when he spied on the Midianite camp? *(Two Midianite men talking about a dream and the meaning of the dream)*
 - How did Gideon and his soldiers defeat the Midianites? *(They surrounded the camp and blew their trumpets, shouted a battle cry, broke jars, and held torches. The Midianites ran away crying.)*

- True or False? After the Israelites defeated the Midianites, Gideon became King of the Israelites. (*False*)
- Once a winner is declared, gather kids in a circle.
- Use the following as a guideline for further discussion:
 - What are some reasons Gideon thought God couldn't use him?
 - How did God use him?
 - Imagine you are Gideon and an angel told you God was sending you to save the Israelites. Why do you think Gideon kept asking God for signs?
 - How do you think Gideon felt when his army was reduced from 32,000 men to 300 men? Why did God tell Gideon to send so many of his soldiers away?

5. Discussion Questions

- How could God use you to serve other people? Or how could God use you to encourage their family or a friend? What about just showing God's love to other people? How could God use you to do that?
- What can we do when we are asked to do something and we don't feel like we are up to the task? Maybe we don't think we are strong enough or have what it takes or we are just unsure of where to start.
- (Refer to the butcher paper from Take a Snapshot Activity.) What words describe a kid who God can use? (*The purpose of this question is to emphasize God can use anyone! God can use funny kids, shy kids, loud kids, quiet kids, jocks, musicians, dancers! God can use each and every kid in the group!*)
- **[Make it Personal] (Share a time you thought God couldn't use you but He did! Maybe you thought you couldn't lead kids and now you are a Small Group Leader. Consider sharing why you thought God couldn't use you. Maybe you were afraid or didn't think you would be good enough.)**

6. Close with Prayer

What You Need: Butcher paper from the "Take a Snapshot Activity"

What You Do:

- Challenge kids to intentionally look for ways this week that God can use them.
- Remind them that wherever they are, they can ask themselves: "How can God use me right now?"
- Prompt kids to think about their "Not Me" reasons as you pray.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, what a great story we heard today! It is amazing how you used Gideon to defeat the Midianites! God, we forget You can use us, too! We tend to focus on the reasons we can't do something, like (*fill in reasons from the Take a Snapshot Activity that resonated with kids*). But You are ready to help us and fill us with Your confidence, just like You helped Gideon. God, open our eyes to see how You want to use us and then give us the confidence to move and reflect Your love to others. In Jesus' name! Amen!"