



WEEK TWO - JUNE 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

Bible Story: *He'll Be There For You • Judges 6-8*

Key Question: *How could God use you?*

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*

Life App: *Confidence - Living like you believe what God says is true.*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: We look to Judges 6-8. When God called Gideon to lead the Israelites, Gideon doubted God would really want him to help. Gideon was from the smallest tribe, the smallest family, and he was the smallest of his family! God wanted him anyway and eventually Gideon learned that God could use him no matter what!

8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - FREE PLAY

9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 | 12:00-12:10 - PRESERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Just for Fun

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask a student to sit on the floor in the middle of the circle and close his eyes.
- Snap your fingers somewhere along an imaginary arched line above the student's head (picture the hairline of a Mohawk). With each snap, ask the student to point to where he thinks the sound of the snap is coming from. Most of the time he will get it wrong.
- Repeat with a few more snaps and then let everyone pair up with a friend and try the experiment on their own.

What You Say:

"In Large Group, we're going to hear about God made use of something similar to a towel in a very unique way. Let's go find out!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10-9:45 | 10:40-11:15 | 12:10-12:45 - LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *How can God use you?. Preteens are at the age when they are just discovering their talents and passions. Some will know immediately, while, for others, this may take time. Thankfully, God can use them no matter who they are or what they enjoy. We pray that kids realize that God wants to use them to change the world.*

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others & build on their understanding

What You Need: Sticky Notes; Pens

What You Do:

- Start by asking students for examples (real or hypothetical) of things God might ask kids their age to do. They might say:
 - Invite a friend to church
 - Raise money for or give time to a cause that they care about
 - Take on more responsibility when a parent is stressed out
 - Be the only one doing the right thing in a certain situation
- Give students a pen and three sticky notes.
- Ask them to write an example of the following situations on their sticky notes (one response per note):
 - God may ask me to do this, and it will be easy.
 - God may ask me to do this, but it will be a bit of a stretch.
 - God may ask me to do this, but it will be a huge challenge.
- Create a "climbing wall" by letting students place their sticky notes on the wall - easy situations near the floor and the most difficult as high on the wall as they can reach. (NOTE: If a wall is not an option, use a designated area on the floor and tell students which area represents the lower part of the wall.)
- Invite everyone to share what they wrote and prompt students to chime in when they resonate with one another's challenges.
- Leave the sticky notes in place for use later in "Make it Personal with Prayer."

Pro Tip

- Steer this activity away from a comparison or competition. Reinforce the fact that each person is different. What is easy for some may be hard for others, but God can use us no matter what our strengths and weaknesses are.

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others & build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - In what ways is the story of Gideon more about God than Gideon?
 - If God can use any of us, what are some ways you'd like to see Him use you? What can you do to prepare yourself to be used in that way?
 - Would you have wanted to be in Gideon's shoes? Why or why not?
 - How might your experiences change if you let God take charge and use you no matter what?
 - Tell about a time God used you or someone you know.
 - Gideon didn't think God could use him because he wasn't from an "important" family. What should you remember when you feel inadequate and doubt that God can use you?

3. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Bibles; sticky notes from "Take a Snapshot" activity

What You Do:

- Ask students to grab the sticky notes they wrote in "Take a Snapshot" that describe things God may ask them to do in the future.
- Remind them that God wants to use each of them to encourage each other to not let fear, uncertainty, or lack of confidence get in the way of doing what God has planned for them to do.
- Read Isaiah 41:10 aloud then allow students to pray silently or aloud about the things they wrote on their sticky notes.
- Encourage them to ask for God's help to face the most challenging situations with the same confidence and faith as the ones that are easy.

What You Say:

"Dear Jesus, thank You for the story of Gideon. Thank You for helping us to see that our strength and confidence aren't in ourselves but in You. It doesn't matter what we look like in the mirror, where we live, or how cool others think we are. You've put a plan in motion for our lives, and we ask You to help us walk in it and bring You great glory. In your name we pray, amen."

