



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Two large boxes of bendy straws
- Three bottles of water

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter room

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- AMPED Theme Slide

What You Do:

- Tape two X's on the ground with a tape line about six feet away. Also put a tape mark at five feet, four feet, and three feet.
- Have one of the water bottles ready with a straw in it for the Host to use.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- Communicator
- A Leader (can be the Host, a Small Group Leader, or a person at the tech booth.)
- Prop box containing:

- Water bottle
- Four party noise makers (for three volunteers and storyteller)
- Flashlights (one per person in the room) https://www.amazon.com/Bear-Motion-Pieces-Flashlights-Supplies/dp/B06XFT6Y46/ref=sr_1_7?ie=UTF8&qid=1523552927&sr=8-7&keywords=bulk+flashlights+for+kids

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit room

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- There will be some back and forth between a Leader and the Communicator. Practice it ahead of time to make sure everyone knows his or her responsibilities.
- If possible, purchase enough inexpensive, squeeze flashlights for everyone in the room during the story to have one. Divide them equally and place the flashlights inside three breakable containers. When the containers are smashed during the Bible story, the volunteer can pass them out to kids around them. Container can be a clay pot or made out of papier-mâché, etc. If you choose a clay pot, have a tub where your volunteers can smash them without pieces going everywhere.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Every Beat
- Sons And Daughters

He'll Be There For You

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

Bottom Line: God can use you no matter what.

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." *Psalms 27:13 NIV*

Life App: Confidence—Living like you believe what God says is true

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: AMPED Theme Slide

Host enters.

Welcome

*Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. For many, this is the first week of summer vacation or they are anticipating summer vacation in just a few weeks. Host can ask about summer plans and get kids hyped about being off from school soon. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening that month (*Incredibles 2* – June 15), a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.*

Opener

HOST: "What's going on, everybody! So good to see you here today! We are off to a great start of summer here at [Name of Environment]. Now, have you ever had one of those moments when you get so hot running around that all you want is a nice, cold drink of water?"

Host drinks from a straw in a water bottle.

"Ahh . . . refreshing. So this month we are all about extreme games, and I was thinking . . . how extreme would it be to have a competition where two contestants drink water from a water bottle . . . wait for it . . . with a straw?"

Host lets the confusion hang in the air ("What's so extreme about drinking water from a water bottle?")

"Okay, okay . . . I know what you might be thinking right now: 'What's so extreme about drinking water from a water bottle? That doesn't seem extreme . . . at all.' (*beat*) But hear me out! Just because it

doesn't seem extreme doesn't mean it can't be extreme! I think you'll see what I mean. Who wants to play?! I need two sets of partners for this head-to-head challenge!"

Host chooses four volunteers for an active game and introduces them to the rest of the group. He has the contestants line up at the six-foot line. Host opens a water bottle and places it on the X.

"Here's how this works. In just a second, I'll open a water bottle for each team and place it on the X in front of them. Teams will stand behind this first tape line and drink the water from the bottle. And, yes, that water is about six feet away from you. So just how are you supposed to drink water from that water bottle? Well, here you go . . ."

Host hands a box of straws to each team.

"Go ahead and put the straws together and then reach it over into the bottle. Once you finally get it into the bottle, drink! The first empty bottle wins. Get it? And GO!"

Host provides commentary. If it is taking a while, let them move up to the five-foot tape line . . . then four-foot . . . then three-foot.

"(After winner) That was awesome. Well done, [Winning Team]! Extreme water drinking . . . who would have thunk it?!"

"Alright, let's stand and worship together!"

Host exits and Worship Leader enters.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: "Get on your feet. I'm excited to sing with all of you today. When we live our lives, we should continue to show God's love to other people in everything that we do. All the time!"

EVERY BEAT

WORSHIP LEADER: "Wow, that's good stuff. Psalm 25:4 says: 'Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you, (NirV)' I want my life to make a difference. I'm thankful that God is able to use all of us to share His love. Let's sing today that that we are all special and loved in God's heart. Sing this from your heart."

SONS AND DAUGHTERS

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “What’s going on? Glad to be with you today. I always look forward to being here and sharing something from God’s Word with you. But you wanna know something? When they first asked me to speak in *[Name of Environment]*, I wasn’t too sure about it. In fact, I was quite surprised. I thought, ‘There’s probably someone better than me, right?’ I wasn’t too sure I could do it. I was afraid I would come out here and freeze . . . and then we would just be awkwardly staring at each other for 15 minutes or so—a complete nightmare.”

“Have you ever felt like that? Maybe you were asked to do a solo in a choir or band concert, or you get chosen to take the penalty kick in the big soccer game, or maybe it was a speaking part in a play or being picked as the captain of your team, or the head of a project group and you found yourself thinking, ‘There’s probably somebody who would be better than me, right?’”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “You know, it’s one thing to feel like this on our sports team or our school band, but have you ever felt like this with God? Have you ever wondered to yourself, ‘I don’t know how God can use me?’ or ‘I don’t feel like I have that much to offer God?’ Believe me. You’re not the first person to feel that way. Throughout your life, at one point or another, you’ll question whether or not God can use you to help make a difference in the world. When that happens, it’s good to remember that a lot of people throughout history have felt that way, even people who went on to do some amazing things for God!

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “In fact, let me introduce you to someone who felt just like that. His name was Gideon. We find his story in the Old Testament book of Judges. The person who wrote the book of Judges tells the stories from a pretty dark time in the nation of Israel’s history. This was a time when they often turned away from worshipping and following God and found themselves at the mercy of their surrounding enemies. The people of Israel would then cry out to God, and He would send a deliverer to rescue them. This was the cycle they faced over and over again. They’d disobey God. They’d fall into the hands of another nation. God would send someone to rescue them. They’d go back to obeying God . . . until they didn’t. And the whole thing would start over again.”

“In this particular time of trouble, a powerful and wicked nation called Midian, or the Midianites, began to threaten Israel. This trouble was so bad that God’s people hid in caves and holes in the mountains. Every year, they would plant crops to grow food. But every year the Midianites would come and destroy their crops. Like I said: it was a really bad situation.”

“God’s people cried out to Him for help. And God heard. He sent an angel to visit—you guessed it—Gideon, and it was quite interesting how he addressed him. Check this out: *(Read directly from Judges 6:12 NIV) ‘The angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon. He said, “Mighty warrior, the LORD is with you.”’*”

“Did you hear what the angel called Gideon? ‘Mighty warrior,’ which is kind of funny because Gideon hadn’t done anything yet. In fact, it was going to take quite a bit of convincing to get Gideon involved. I’ll show you.”

“Gideon asked the angel why all of this was happening with the Midianites. We can read it for ourselves in the book of Judges, *(Reads directly from Judges 6:14 NIV) ‘The LORD turned to Gideon. He said to him, “You are strong. Go and save Israel from the power of Midian. I am sending you.”’*”

“Gideon, you’re going to save Israel from the Midianites! Do you think Gideon was excited about this? How do you think he responded?”

Allow responses.

“Let’s find out if you’re right? *(Read directly from Judges 6:15, NIV)* “Pardon me, sir,” Gideon replied, “but how can I possibly save Israel? My family group is the weakest in the tribe of Manasseh. And I’m the least important member of my family.””

“Did you catch that? Gideon was all, ‘Not me, God! I can’t save Israel! I’m a nobody from nowhere!’”

“Gideon was basically thinking, ‘There has GOT to be somebody better cut out for this, right?’”

“And in so many words God basically told Gideon, ‘Nope. You’re My guy for this. But don’t worry, I’ll be with you.’”

“Now I’d like to say that from here on out Gideon was sold on this mission, buuuuuut that’s not quite the case. Gideon kept second-guessing that God really wanted to use him. In fact, there were a few different times when he asked God to prove to him that He was still with him and would still use him.”

Communicator pulls out a prop box.

“Okay for the next part of this story, I need a LOT of volunteers, including some small group leaders. Who can help out?”

Communicator lets kids raise their hands and talks out loud while getting ready to choose.

“I think I’ll choose like TWELVE people to help out . . . *(looking around)*”

Communicator is interrupted by tech booth, a leader from the back, or the Host.

LEADER: “Twelve is too many, *[Communicator’s name]*. Why don’t you go with six?”

COMMUNICATOR: “Oh, okay sounds good. I’ll take . . . *(chooses 3 kids and 3 leaders)*. Come on up on stage, please!”

Volunteers come up on stage.

“Alright, so as I was saying, our story today is from Judges and . . .”

Same leader interrupts again.

LEADER: “Sorry to interrupt again, but you still have too many helping out on stage. Let’s get it down to three volunteers.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Umm okay, I guess I can still do it with that many. Hmmm, let’s have the small group leaders take a seat. Thanks for helping out.”

Small group leaders sit down.

“One day, God came to Gideon. The day had arrived. It was time for Israel to defeat the Midianites. Gideon was leading Israel’s army of about 32,000 men! That is quite an army, right? Well, not compared to Midian. Israel would need every last soldier in the army! That is what makes what God said next so unbelievable . . . (Read directly from Judges 7:2-3a, NIV) ‘The LORD said to Gideon, “I want to hand Midian over to you. But you have too many men for me to do that. Then Israel might brag, ‘My own strength has saved me.’ So here is what I want you to announce to the army. Tell them, ‘Those who tremble with fear can turn back.’”’”

“Too many men?! Those who are scared can go back home?! What in the world! Let me ask you . . . how many people do you think left and went back home? (Pause for responses.) Well, the passage says that 22,000 men left, leaving an army of 10,000 men!”

“Now that was still quite an army. They should have been okay, right? But God wasn’t done yet . . . (Reads directly from Judges 7:4, NIV) “The LORD said to Gideon, ‘There are still too many men. So take them down to the water. There I will reduce the number of them for you. If I say, “This one will go with you,” he will go. But if I say, “That one will not go with you,” he will not go.’”

“Too many men! You can never have too many men in an army! Well, I guess yes you can if you’re trying to show that army where their strength and power comes from.”

“God had Gideon take the men down to the water, and God had a pretty unique way of separating who was going to stay and who was going to leave. He said that some of the men would lap up water like dogs . . . in other words, they’d bring the water to their mouths in their hands and lap it up. Here, let me show you.”

(To volunteers) Hey, everyone. Put your hands out like a bowl.”

Use the water bottle from the prop box to pour water into the volunteer’s hands.

“Quick, lap it up before it all drips out. (Amused) And that is what a lot of the men did when they got down to the water. The others just knelt down to drink.”

“God told Gideon, ‘Take the lappers!’ Okay, so He didn’t call them the lappers, but you get the idea. The rest went home. Guess how many of the 10,000 men were left? (Pause for response.) 300! That’s it! Three hundred men against the entire Midian army. Not only was Gideon unsure about himself, but he certainly had to be unsure of his army!”

“And with that, Gideon, along with 300 men, went up against the army of Midian. And once again God reassured a scared Gideon that Israel would have the victory.”

Communicator pulls three volunteers over.

“Alright, men . . . each of you represents 100 men, and so I’m going to split you into three camps. Each of you will take this (*reaches in prop box and hands each a bag of noise makers and the breakable containers with flashlights*). I’ll tell you what to do in a minute.”

Spread the three volunteers out around the room. They will soon get everybody else involved.

“Gideon told everybody what to do. As soon as they heard him blow his trumpet, they were to blow their trumpets as well and shout a battle cry!”

(*Shadowing one of the volunteers*) “So Gideon and 100 men snuck up to the edge of the enemy camp at night. And they blew their trumpets . . . (*Volunteer takes out a noise maker and blows it*) Nice trumpet . . . and they broke the jars in their hands.”

Communicator instructs volunteer to break the container, revealing the flashlights.

“And when every man broke his container, there were torches inside. And as soon as Gideon and his men did it, so did the other camps (*encourage the two other volunteers across the room to blow their noise makers and break their containers*).”

“Start passing them out to everybody in the room. Everybody get a noise maker and a flashlight, and hold on!”

Once everybody has one.

(*Speaking quietly*) Now can you imagine . . . it was late at night. The Midianites were just starting to get cozy in their beds, maybe drinking a nice mug of sleepy time tea. When all of the sudden . . . kill the lights!”

Lighting: Lights in the Room go off

“Trumpets and torches everyone!”

The room is in chaos for a few moments. Then turn the lights back on and quiet everyone down.

Lighting: Turn Lights back on

“Now, what do you think the Midianites did when they looked outside of their camp and ALL around them they saw flashing lights and heard the sound of trumpets?”

Allow responses.

“We read in Judges that there was so much panic that the Midianites started fighting against each other! And it was not long after that that the entire Midian army was defeated. Can you give it up for our volunteers?”

Volunteers sit down.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, that story is crazy, and you were awesome helping out at the end. You know, I think Gideon probably thought there was NO WAY things would end the way they did when God scaled his army down from 32,000 to 300. But you know what I think Gideon thought was even more unbelievable? That God would use *him*. Gideon was pretty unsure about God using him, and yet, remember, God called Gideon a mighty warrior before any of the rest of the story took place!”

“Maybe God knew more than Gideon about how He could use him.”

“Kind of like us sometimes, right? That solo in band or choir . . . when we’re thinking, ‘There are so many better choices than me!’ Or our team when we find we’ve been made captain and we don’t even think we’re the best player on the team! Or leading that project group at school . . . there are a lot of times we might feel like this.”

“But you know what we might be missing in these moments? It was something that Gideon kept forgetting. God is with us. And if God is with us, He can work in and through us in ways we could never expect. Sure, we might not defeat an army with trumpets and torches, but the truth is that God may have some pretty big things He wants to do with us, but we first have to learn to trust Him and realize that it is less about us and more about Him!”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “As you head to small groups, think about this: How could God use you?”

CG: Key Question Slide

“I bet some of you can already think of some examples from your lives where you’ve been a little uncertain and maybe asking ‘How’ or ‘Why me?’ But think about your strengths, what you’re good at, or what you like to do. How could God use those things in your life to help Him? And don’t worry; if you’re having trouble thinking of something, your small group leader can help you. Small Group is a great place to talk about things just like this! I know you’ll have a great time in Small Group, but before we head out, let’s pray!”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.