



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Two kid volunteers and their Small Group Leaders
- Helmet
- Pillows (to tape on as pads to kid volunteer)
- Mini Zorb Ball (Anthem)
- 10 2-liter bottles OR a set of oversized bowling pins (<http://amzn.to/2EJkh6g>)
- Masking tape

#### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat music to use as teams play the game

#### *Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):*

- AMPED Theme Slide
- Confidence Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

#### What You Do:

- Create a bowling “lane” with the tape. This can be on the stage or anywhere in your room visible to the kids. Put a starting line at one end of the lane and set up the bowling pins at the other

end. Test the length of your lane before playing it with your group. Tape small X's where each pin should sit to make it easy to set up.

- Put the helmet, pads, and scooter backstage or somewhere on stage, out of the way.

## **2. Bible Story**

### **What You Need:**

- Storyteller
- Three kid volunteers (see note under "What You Do")
- Bible
- Small step stool
- Toy sword

*Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):*

- Bottom Line Slide

### **What You Do:**

- Place the step stool out of sight, but easy for the Storyteller to access.
- You'll need three kid volunteers to play the role of Gideon, the angel, and Gideon's servant. These can be boys or girls depending on who you have available in your room—just be sure Gideon and Gideon's servant aren't wearing dresses, as they will be on the floor, etc.

## **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.

**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.

## **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 is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.*

### **Opener**

**HOST:** "Hello, everyone! I'm so glad to see you. Let's jump right in and take a look at this month's Life App: confidence!"

**CG:** Confidence Slide

"Confidence is living like you believe what God says is true. That's how you live fully alive!"

"Today we have another totally AMPED extreme sport to play. If you've been bowling before, raise your hand. (*Pause for response.*) Have you ever bowled without bumpers? (*Pause for response.*) That's pretty extreme. But I think we can play a bowling game that's even MORE extreme! I need a volunteer who's sure they can win today's extreme game, and I need their Small Group Leader to help, too."

*Choose one kid and his Small Group Leader and bring them up front.*

*Give the bicycle helmet, knee/elbow pads, and gloves to the Leader to put on the kid. Pull out the scooter.*

*(To kid contestant)* "[Kid's name], you are the bowling ball. Fun, right? You'll sit in this Zorb BALL with your legs and all body parts inside, as your Small Group Leader pushes you down the lane (*point to the tape lane*) and into the bowling pins. As a team, you and your Leader want to knock over as many pins as you can, and you'll have two tries. You have to hold on tight to the scooter so you don't fall off! Don't lift your hands or try to knock any pins over yourself. Remember, you're just the ball."

*Put the scooter on the starting line and help the kid sit on the scooter with legs folded.*

*(To Leader)* “Go ahead and get your bowling ball lined up. Make sure you don’t step over the starting line when you push [kid’s name]. *(To audience)* Everyone, let’s count them down together. Three, two, one, BOWL!

**SFX: Play high-energy music as volunteers make both attempts**

*Announce how many pins they knocked over after their first attempt, and help the kid bring the scooter back to the start line.*

*After their second attempt, announce how many total pins they knocked over, collect the safety equipment, and ask them to stand off to the side of stage.*

“That was pretty impressive. Anyone think they can beat their score? I need another volunteer and Small Group Leader.

*Choose another kid and her Leader and bring them up front.*

*Give the bicycle helmet, knee/elbow pads, and gloves to the Leader to put on the kid.*

*(To the new contestants)* “I like your confidence. Let’s see if you have what it takes to beat the other team. You get two tries to knock down more than [other team’s score] pins. Remember, you have to hold on to the scooter. You’re a ball, so no holding out your arms or anything to try and knock over more pins.

*Put the scooter on the starting line and help the kid sit on the scooter with legs folded.*

“You guys have a strategy? Ready? *(To audience)* Let’s count them down. Three, two, one, BOWL!

**SFX: Play high-energy music as volunteers make both attempts**

*Announce how many pins they knocked over after their first attempt, and help the kid bring the scooter back to the start line.*

*After their second attempt, announce how many total pins they knocked over. Announce the winner, collect the safety equipment, and dismiss the volunteers to their seats.*

“Wow! What a game! Talk about extreme. It took confidence for our contestants to trust their Leaders to send them in the right direction toward the pins. Today we’ll hear a story about a guy God used even though he wasn’t always confident. But first, let’s all stand and sing together!”

*Worship Leaders enter. Host exits.*

### **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.*

### **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hey everyone! Are you ready for a super-AMPED story today from the Bible? (*Hold up Bible.*) Awesome! Let’s get right into it!”

“A long, long time ago, before your parents were born, before your grandparents were born, and before Jonah was eaten by a whale, God had chosen the Israelites to be His people. He wanted them to obey Him and worship Him only. But sometimes the Israelites didn’t trust God, and they would disobey what He said. Because of their disobedience, the Israelites would end up slaves to someone more powerful and cry out to God for help.

“When the people turned back to God, God would always come through for the Israelites, even when they didn’t deserve it. God would send someone to rescue the Israelites and put them back on the right path.

“That’s where our story begins today. The Israelites had an enemy known as the Midianites. The Israelites tried to hide from the Midianites, but the Midianites always found them. For seven years, the Midianites destroyed everything belonging to the Israelites, and the Israelites were starving. Finally, they called out to God for help.”

### **GOD CALLS GIDEON**

**STORYTELLER:** “God chose Gideon to rescue His people. To tell the story, I’ll need everyone’s help in a moment, but first I need one volunteer to pretend to be Gideon.

*Choose one kid volunteer (not wearing a dress) and bring him/her on stage.*

“This is Gideon. Gideon wasn’t anyone special. In fact, he was the least important son in the least

important family in the least important tribe in all of Israel. Those things may not sound like they matter, but back then it was a big deal. No one would have thought to pick Gideon to save Israel. But God did!

“All right, I need another volunteer.

*Choose another kid volunteer and bring him/her on stage. Get the step stool and instruct the kid to stand on it.*

“God sent an angel to deliver the message to Gideon. Gideon wasn’t confident in what God said, and he doubted God would choose him for such a big responsibility. The angel said this to Gideon.

*Walk to the angel volunteer and hold up his arms. Open the Bible to Judges 6:14 and read.*

“*You are strong. Go and save Israel from the power of Midian. I am sending you*” (NirV).

“But Gideon STILL wasn’t confident. Even though an angel appeared to him, he wasn’t sure God could use him. He asked God for a sign. He brought the angel an offering—or a gift. The angel told Gideon to put the gift on a large rock, and when he did, fire came out of the rock and burned up the gift! Suddenly the angel disappeared, and Gideon was confident that what God had said was true.

“Let’s hear it for our angel!”

*Dismiss the angel volunteer to his seat.*

## **GOD SHRINKS THE ARMY**

*Hand the toy sword to “Gideon.”*

**STORYTELLER:** “Gideon sent word out to all of Israel that God was on their side. He called for soldiers to rise up to fight against their enemy, the Midianites.

“Even though Gideon wasn’t considered important, lots of warriors answered his call to fight—lots! There were 32,000 of them, to be exact. The odds were looking good for Israel now! With numbers like this, I’m sure the army was confident they could take on the Midianites.

“Now I need everyone’s help. While we don’t have 32,000 people here today, let’s pretend that you represent all the men who volunteered to fight for Israel. Everybody stand up!

*Pause as the audience stands.*

“This is a good-looking army. On the count of three, I want everyone to shout and give Gideon your best three-second battle cry. Ready? Three, two, one, go! *(Roar with the kids.)*”

“Wow! If I were the Midianites and saw this army, I’d be shaking in my sandals! But God didn’t want the people to be confident in themselves; He wanted them to be confident in Him. God wanted the people to trust Him and believe what He said to be true. God told Gideon that the army was too big, and if any

of the soldiers were afraid, they should go home. It turned out that 22,000 soldiers were too scared, so they went home.

*Instruct 75 percent of the room to sit down; or ask everyone but the third graders to sit down, depending on the makeup of your group.*

“Whoa. That left only 10,000 warriors to fight. Still enough to win a battle, but even with 10,000 soldiers, God said the army was too big! God told Gideon to make the army even smaller. He asked Gideon to take the 10,000 men down to the river to get a drink. Those who scooped the water with their hands and lapped it up like dogs would stay. The ones who got down on their knees to drink the water would be sent home.

“Some of them cupped the water in their hands and lapped it like dogs—like this.

*Act like you’re cupping water with your hands and lapping it up like a dog.*

“Can you try it?”

*Allow the kids to try it.*

“Great job! The soldiers who did that were allowed to stay. But the ones who got down on their knees to drink were sent home. That only left 300 men to stand and fight against the entire Midianite army!

*Go into the audience and tap the heads of four or five of the kids who are still standing.*

“Suddenly, Gideon’s army was looking very small. If I didn’t just tap your head, you can sit down.” *(Kids sit down.)*

## **THE BATTLE**

**STORYTELLER:** *(Point to the few kids still standing)* “Gideon and his small army set up camp above a valley. *(To those standing)* Gideon’s army, you must be tired. For now, go ahead and have a seat. *(Pause while they sit.)*

“Gideon could see the huge Midianite army from their camp. He could see just how small the Israelite army was compared to them. He started to doubt God again. God told Gideon to go down to the enemy’s camp. Gideon **[Basic Truth] made the wise choice** by obeying God, and he snuck down to the enemy camp with his servant.

“Okay, I need one more volunteer.

*Choose one kid volunteer (not wearing a dress) and bring him/her on stage.*



*(To volunteers on stage)* “All right, Gideon and his servant. Let’s pretend the enemy is on the other side of the stage. You have to be really sneaky and get as close as you can to the enemy without getting caught. Let’s see how sneaky you can be as you sneak to the other side of the stage together.

*Make the “Shhhhh” sign as the two kids sneak across the stage. Coach them if needed.*

*(To volunteers on stage)* “That was some good sneaking! Just outside the enemy camp, Gideon and his servant overheard one Midianite soldier tell another about a dream he had that night. A giant loaf of bread came through the Midianite camp, crushing all the tents and running everyone over. That sounds like a funny dream, but it was a message from God. God was telling Gideon that the Israelites would win the battle against their enemy!

“Gideon was confident in what God had said. He and his servant ran back to the Israelites.

*Coach the two volunteers to head back to the other side of the stage. Thank the servant volunteer for her help and send her back to her seat.*

“Gideon woke up the Israelite army and told them this.

*Walk to “Gideon” and hold up his arm that’s holding the sword. Open the Bible to Judges 7:15 and read.*

*“Get up! The Lord has handed the Midianites over to you (NIRV).*

”Each of the Israelites grabbed a trumpet and a jar with a torch in it. They surrounded the Midianite army, and when Gideon gave the signal, the Israelite warriors blew their horns, broke their jars, and yelled: *A sword for the Lord and for Gideon! (Judges 7:20 NIRV).*

“All right, if you’re one of the few warriors left, I need you to listen close. Just like in the story, when Gideon gives the signal, I want you to stand up and yell, ‘A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!’ Of course, in the real story, Gideon and his men blew their trumpets and broke their jars to give the signal to the others. But let’s have some fun and see what kind of signal we can come up with for today. *(To “Gideon”)* Gideon, what do you want your signal to be?

*Help the volunteer come up with a signal by suggesting some ideas, like touching their nose or the classic, “Ca-caw! Ca-caw!”*

*(To audience)* “All right, everybody. The signal is *(demonstrate the signal)*, and then the remaining warriors will stand up and yell, ‘A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!’ *(Crouch down.)* Warriors, are you ready? *(To “Gideon”)* We’re ready for your signal, Gideon.



*If the volunteer forgets the signal, whisper it in his ear.  
After the signal, jump up and yell along with the “warriors”:  
“A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!”*

“Nice job! You all can sit back down. (To “Gideon”) Gideon, thanks for your help. You can have a seat, too.

*Dismiss the “Gideon” volunteer to his seat.*

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “When the Midianites heard the Israelites and saw all the flames, they were terrified! They started to panic and fight against themselves. They ran away from the battle.

“Without lifting a weapon, the Israelite army had won against their enemy! God had come through, just like He said He would! The Israelites knew God had given them victory, and they gave God the credit. With Gideon as their leader, Israel finally had peace for the next 40 years.

“Gideon’s story shows us something really important.

#### **CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “**God can use you no matter what.** God used Gideon even though he felt like the least important person in all of Israel. No one would have picked Gideon to do anything special—especially rescue God’s people. But God picked Gideon to do something amazing!

“What was true for Gideon is also true for you: **[Bottom Line]** **God can use you no matter what.**

“Let’s pray.”

### **Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “God, thank You for Gideon’s story. Thank You for choosing him to save Your people. He didn’t feel like he was important enough to do it, but You did! Help us to remember that You can use each one of us, too, no matter what. Help us to trust You and to know that You can use us to do anything You’ve called us to do. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters. Storyteller exits.*

### **Closer**

**HOST:** “Have you ever felt like Gideon—like you weren’t good enough to do something? Maybe you didn’t have enough confidence to try out for a sport or a play. Or maybe you were afraid to stand up for a friend who was being picked on. Or maybe you were scared to pray in front of people.

“Whenever you feel that way, think about Gideon’s story. His story can give you confidence. It can remind you of what God can do through you. God can use you because HE thinks you’re important. He can use you to make a difference.

“He can use you to make a difference for Him at your school. He can use you to make a difference in your family and with your friends. He can use you to tell others about Jesus and how He died to save us.

“Here’s the one thing we need to remember today.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “**God can use you no matter what.** Be confident and remember that God is with you just like He was with Gideon. **[Basic Truth]** **You can trust Him no matter what.** Let’s head to Small Group and talk some more about different ways God that could use you!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

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