

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for the kids who might struggle with feelings of worthlessness or are just generally down on themselves. Ask God to help all of your kids understand that He can and wants to use them, no matter what. Thank God for uniquely gifting each of your few for the plans He has for them. Pray that the story of Gideon will inspire them to

allow themselves to be used by God.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Use Somebody
Gideon
Judges 6–8

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Hand sanitizer, offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite each kid who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Encourage kids to sit in a circle and share a fun fact about themselves.
- Allow kids to continue to share more facts about themselves as more kids arrive.
- **[Make it Personal] (Make sure to share interesting and fun facts about yourself, as well!)**

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can use you no matter what.

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

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Confidence—Learning to see
yourself the way God sees you**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



GIDEON AND GLADYS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared "Gideon and Gladys" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids in a circle.
- Read the "Gideon and Gladys" story together.
- Explain that the story will prompt them to respond. When they are prompted with "She could walk" or "She could clean," encourage the kids to say and do the following.
 - "She could walk, and she could clean!"
 - Make the motion of walking fingers or using an imaginary cloth to polish a surface.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Use Somebody

Gideon
Judges 6–8

WHAT YOU SAY:

"How are Gladys from this story and Gideon from the Bible story similar? How are they different? (*Invite responses.*) How are you like Gideon? (*Invite responses.*) How are you like Gladys? (*Invite responses.*)"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can use you no matter what.

"Gideon and Gladys both did what they could do—nothing more and nothing less. God didn't demand that Gideon become a giant superhero, and He didn't ask Gladys to grow wings and fly to China! **God can use you no matter what.** It will look really normal at first—like being kind to a new kid in your neighborhood or inviting your younger sibling to join you and your friends when you play outside. But God will take that little thing you do and make it HUGE in someone else's life.

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"This also means that you can work on your skills—school, chores, sports, exercise, dance—and feel confident that God will use you in those. God may ask you to try something new, but He can use you anywhere and in any way. Where could God use you this week?" (*Invite answers.*)

MONTHLY LIFE APP

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Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- How has God used someone in your life—just by being kind or helpful—to show you His love?
- When was the last time you did something to show love to someone else? How did that feel?
- What are some other ways God could use you?

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



NO MATTER WHAT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids in the middle of your space.
- Play four corners.
- Designate different corners to be Corner One, Corner Two, Corner Three, and Corner Four.
- Make sure kids understand how each corner is labelled.
- For each round, list four things God has given people.
 - If kids think Option One is something God has given them personally, they should run to Corner One.
 - If they relate to Option Two the most, they to run to Corner Two and so on.
- Play until you've finished all rounds.
- Repeat corner options in different combinations so the kids have a chance to run to other corners that apply to them. (Most likely you'll have kids for whom more than one option in a given round applies to them.)

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Judges 6–8

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Four Corner options:

Round 1

1. Great singing voice
2. The ability to make people laugh
3. A math brain
4. Good fashion sense

Round 2

1. Artistic ability
2. A love for sports
3. Someone who can make people feel welcome
4. Good at playing games

Round 3

1. Good at writing
2. Organized
3. Loves to cook or loves food
4. Likes to build things

Round 4

1. Really good helper
2. Strong
3. Creative ideas
4. Can run fast

(NO MATTER WHAT, CONTINUED)

Round 5

1. Loves music
2. Generous
3. Thinks ice cream is the best thing ever
4. Can remember lots of lines in movies

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Did you know professional ice cream taster is a real job? The next time you think your love for ice cream isn’t one of the awesome things God has given you, remember that you may be the next best professional ice cream taster!”

“You may wish you had more talent, more self-control, more creativity, or even more influence with your friends or at home, but God has already given you so many things that make you awesome! **God can use you no matter what.** So the next time you think you lack something, think about all of the things God has given you and how He uses you to show people His love!”

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SNEAK AND SMASH

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles and **3 or 4** paper lunch bags **per group**

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up Psalm 27:13 together and read it out loud.
- Make sure everyone can say the verse together before

the game begins.

- Instruct the **leaders** to inflate **a** lunch bag by blowing in it, then tightly twist the top.
- **Tell** the kids **you will** pop the paper bag by smashing it with **your** hands.
- Tell the kids that when you say "Sneak" they should drop to the floor and "army crawl" on the floor.
- Tell the kids that when you say "Smash" they should stand up and **you'll** "pop" it.
- **Play a few times until you're out of bags.**

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Use Somebody

Gideon
Judges 6–8

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was fun! I liked the 'Smash' part better than the 'Sneak' part. We used a pretty ordinary thing—this paper bag—in a creative way. Have you ever used one of these before? (*Invite responses.*) Usually, they hold things like lunch or supplies, but that's not what we used them for today.

"It's like the way that **God can use you no matter what.** Most often, God uses us to be kind to our neighbors and our family, to show His love by being ourselves. That is awesome! I'm so glad that God uses us every day.

"But sometimes there's something special we can do—like make a card for someone who is shut-in or share our money or belongings with people in need. That's like this paper bag becoming something special.

"So here's a challenge for you this week. Take home a paper bag and figure out a way to use it to show God's love to someone. What ideas do you already have? (*If the kids need suggestions, share some ideas, i.e. packing a snack for a friend, putting in small toys to donate, saving money in the bag to share at church, wrapping a small gift for a sibling, making a puppet to entertain a little kid, etc.*)

"Our memory verse says that we can have confidence that we will see God's goodness—and sometimes that means we can see God's goodness in what God does through us!

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in prayer.
- If you did the “Small but Mighty” Activity, prompt kids to hold their duct tape “army” papers as you pray.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“The important thing to remember today is that: **God can use you no matter what.** God can use [kid’s name], no matter what; God can use [kid’s name], no matter what; and God can use [kid’s name], no matter what! *(Repeat with each kid.)* Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You, SO much, that You can use us, no matter what. Thank You for the example of Gideon. Thank You for giving him confidence and using him even though he was scared and felt small. Thank You that You are good to us and give us confidence when we’re scared, too. We love you, SO much, God. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell parents today’s **God can use you no matter what.**

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