

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: A stick or broom handle

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct kids to get in a line.
- Play a game of limbo with the group.
- Hold a broom handle 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.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Use Somebody
Gideon
Judges 6-8

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How could God use you?

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

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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*. **[Transition] I understand the hero in our story today had the odds stacked against him, you could say he was an underdog. Let's head to Large Group to hear his story.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper, 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?

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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. "

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MADE TO IMAGINE

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



VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, paper, markers, the butcher paper from the "Take a Snapshot Activity," mobile device

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Ask kids to think about one of the "Not Me" reasons that resonates with them.
- Explain just like Gideon asked for signs from God to give him confidence, we can also look to God's character to give us confidence.
- Hand out the Bibles or let kids use a Bible app on phones or tablets.
- Instruct them to find a verse they can use next time they're feeling the "Not Me" reasons stealing their confidence.
- Some verses kids could use:
 - When you are afraid, read Joshua 1:9b.
 - When you think you aren't good enough, read Psalm 139:14.
 - When you are unsure of what to do, read 2 Timothy 1:7.
 - When you need help, read Psalm 121:1-2.
 - When you think you are too young, read 1 Timothy 4:12.
 - When you are feeling discouraged, read Psalm 27:13.
 - When you think you aren't smart enough, read James 1:5.
 - When you think kids will make fun of you, read Hebrews 13:6.
- Hand out paper and markers.
- Encourage kids use their verse to make a sign to remind them of Gideon's story and the fact that God can use anyone, even an underdog. Remind them that these verses aren't meant to "solve" a problem but to remind them who God is and where their confidence should come from.
- Allow kids time to share their signs with the group.
- Encourage kids to hang their signs at home somewhere they can see them every day to remind them that God can and wants to use them in His story.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- 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.)**

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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!”

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