** BIBLE 101**

Unit 5: Messengers of God - Prophets

*God Sends Gideon*

**A Note to the Teacher:** Like many of us, the idea of being a prophet scares Gideon. He is not sure that he is up for the task, and isn’t certain that he is willing to risk everything to be God’s hands and feet in the world. But Gideon’s faith is bigger than his fear.

Children are often afraid to admit that they are sometimes…afraid. This lesson is a reminder that even the strongest adults are afraid at times, and that it is ok to be scared. When we are frightened, our faith and God’s love can help us through.

**Gathering**

As students enter the space, gather them in a seated circle. In the center of the circle, place a variety of pictures of things that one might be afraid of: heights, bugs, the dentist, monsters, etc. **Say, “Do any of you ever get scared? Are there things that you are afraid of? Take a look at the pictures we have here. Which of these things makes you nervous?”** Spend some time talking about students’ fears.

**Say, “Today we are going to talk about a prophet who was scared. Gideon was nervous, and he wasn’t sure if he could do the job that God was asking him to do. Our story takes place in a time when there was no king. People did whatever they thought was right, whether it was a good idea or not. That meant that people called the Midianites stole everything that God’s people, the Israelites, had because they didn’t think that it was wrong.**

**Our story takes place in the Old Testament, in a book of the Bible called Judges.** (You may pause here to show the class where Judges 6-7 is found in the Bible.) **This morning, instead of reading our story, though, we are going to watch it.”**

Use the iPad to play the Gideon video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct7N6mn6gRE

When the video is over, spend a few minutes discussing the story of Gideon.

1. **What does God promise Gideon when God send him to fight the Midianites?**
2. **Who had more troops, the Israelites or the Midianites?**
3. **What happens when the battle begins?**

**Spot the Simple Meaning**

Set out two empty bottles, one with the cap on and one empty.

**Say, “Take a look at these two bottle. They both look the same, but one is different. The bottle with the cap on is FULL of faith. You cannot see it right now, but its there. The other bottle is empty and has no faith.**

**For this experiment, my hand represents fear.** (If you are willing, write the word FEAR on your hand using a marker.) **Gideon was afraid. He started out without much faith, only fear. He even hid when the angel called his name. Fear fights our faith. What do you think will happen when fear comes to fight someone without any faith?”** Give time for answers. After everyone has answered, squeeze the bottle without the cap until it is crushed. **Say, “You were right – it was crushed. That is because we need faith to fight fear.**

**Now, what do you think will happen when fear comes against someone who is full of faith?”** Give time for answers. When everyone has answered, attempt to squeeze the bottle with the cap. **Say, “Fear cannot crush it! In fact, it doesn’t look affected at all. You see, with faith, we get strength from God. Jesus once said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still not have faith?” We cannot see faith, but the strength that faith produces we can see quite clearly. We do not need to worry or be afraid of anything when we have Jesus, because we have God’s strength.”**

**Gideon’s Ammunition**

Set up three stations around the room, one for each: trumpets, torches, and clay pots.

**Ask, “Does anyone remember what three items Gideon gave to his army to fight the Midianites?”** Allow time for students to answer. **Say, “While most armies at the time had swords and shields, Gideon have his army trumpets, torches, and clay pots. What unusual weapons! And yet, as soon as they blew the trumpets and broke the pots, the Midianites started fighting with one another and the Israelites were saved.”**

**Say, “This morning, we are going to make our own set of items to be part of Gideon’s army. Around the room you will find three stations to make clay pots, torches, and trumpets. You can visit one or all of the stations as you are ready.”**

Help students move from station to station creating the projects. In the youngest class, you may want to move through the projects as a group.

***Clay Pots***

Set out lumps of clay. Show students how to shape them in to bowls.

***Torches***

Set out strips of red and orange construction paper and paper tubes. Help students to glue or tape the construction paper to the inside of the tube to make a torch.

***Trumpets***

Set out paper tubes, aluminum foil, Sharpie markers, stickers, and jewels. Help students to wrap their tube in aluminum foil (to make it look like metal). They may then decorate their trumpets as they wish.

**Closing**

When everyone has finished, bring the group back together. Take turns showing off what each child has created. **Say, “We are all afraid sometimes, just like Gideon. But with faith, nothing is too much for us to handle!”**

Corrie arrives to teach music at 11:20am. At that time, students gather in a seated circle near the classroom couch. If time allows, have students help cleanup before heading to choir practice.