

# 3.1 Small Group Lesson | Elementary



## October 13, 2019

# Space Ninjas vs. Pirate Squirrels

The Judges: Deborah

**BIG IDEA:** God is sovereign and worthy of our praise.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Judges 4–5

**KEY VERSE:** “Lord you are great. You are really worthy of praise. No one can completely understand how great you are.” Psalm 145:3 (NirV)

 **SCHEDULE**  
SMALL GROUP   
CONNECT

7–15 minutes

 **LARGE GROUP  
LESSON**

30–40 minutes

**REFLECT AND RESPOND  
STATIONS**

7–15 minutes

 **SMALL GROUP  
ACTIVITIES**

15–25 minutes

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## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

We live with what psychologists call the “illusion of control.” We think that with enough planning and enough preparation, we can determine the exact outcome of any situation.

It’s the athlete who always wears (and never washes) his lucky pair of socks, convinced that if he fails to do so, his team is doomed to failure. It’s the gambler who thinks he has a particular gift for choosing lottery tickets and is certain that one day his ability will pay off big. As a kid, my brothers and I would do what we called the “Midnight Dance” (really more like the 8:00pm Dance), believing that if we danced our little hearts out, a snow day would inevitably follow. We all have things we think give us control in situations over which we have none.

Only God is exempt from the illusion of control, for it is no illusion. He is, to use a fancy Bible word, *sovereign* over His universe. There is nothing out of His reach. There is no person so far gone that He cannot get to them. There is no situation so hopeless that He cannot act. He not only wants the best for us, but can also do something about it.

The appropriate response to God’s sovereignty is praise. We praise Him not only with our words but also with our lives. We give Him not only glory but also trust. We worship Him not only for what He has done but also simply for who He is.

*Casey Jordan*  
GO! Contributor



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## SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

### *Helping Kids Reflect and Respond to God*

At the end of every GO! large group lesson is an opportunity for kids to reflect and respond to God through prayer, journaling, scripture reading, or art. It's what we refer to as the Reflect and Respond Stations. This time is especially important because it allows kids to interact with God on a deep and personal level through various age-appropriate spiritual disciplines. You've probably already noticed what an incredible experience this can be for kids, but did you know that you can help to make the experience even more rich and meaningful? It's true! Here are a few ways you can help:

**Establish a quiet atmosphere:** Creating a quiet atmosphere helps kids focus on God instead of the other kids around them. Before dismissing the kids, remind them that this is a time for them to talk to God, not their friends. Right before dismissing kids to move about the stations, give your final instructions in a whisper. Consider telling kids they can begin moving on the count of three. By the time you get to one, mouth the number silently and motion for the kids to get up.

**Help out at a station:** Most kids will eventually know exactly what to do and how to do it, but some kids (especially young and new kids) might need a little bit of direction. Pick a station and be available to help kids who need it. At the prayer and journaling station, quietly help kids who need assistance with spelling. Help organize the materials at the art station. Be available at the reading station to help kids find the selected Bible passage or to quietly read to kids who need assistance.

**Provide prayer support:** Sometimes it might become evident that a kid could use some prayer (especially at the prayer station). Make yourself available to quietly pray with kids. When you're not praying with a specific kid, pray silently that God would move in the hearts and minds of all the kids during this time.

**Follow up afterwards:** From time to time, ask the kids after the Reflect and Respond Stations if they heard anything special from the Holy Spirit or if they said anything special to God. Processing the experience out loud sometimes helps kids make the most of their time with God. It also gives you a window into the hearts and minds of the kids.



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## ★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

### PREPARE FOR BATTLE

**Say:** This week we're starting a super fun series called "Space Ninjas vs. Pirate Squirrels." For the next four weeks we get to battle our way through a book in the Bible called "Judges." To get ready for the battle, though, I think we need a team song.

**Directions:** Determine ahead of time which team your group is in. Instruct the kids in your group to work together to think of a song or to create a song that best represents their team. Later, at the appropriate time during the large group lesson, encourage your group to sing their song.

**Question:** In our story for today, a lady named Deborah sings a song about an epic battle. Do you have a favorite song right now? What is it and why do you like it?

### ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

## ★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

### STORY QUESTIONS

**Directions:** During the Large Group program, kids will be asked to turn briefly to their small group and answer the following questions:

#### For Younger Kids:

1. What was your favorite part of this story?
2. How do you think the Israelites were able to defeat an army of chariots?

#### For Older Kids:

1. What do you think this story teaches us about God?
2. What do you think would have happened if the Israelites didn't have God's power on their side?



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## ★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### THE BANNER OF GOD (Application Activity)

**Question:** Today we learned that God is sovereign. Does anyone remember what the word “sovereign” means? (*Answer: Having supreme power and total control.*)

**Say:** In our story for today, God showed that He had supreme power by defeating Sisera’s army of iron-covered chariots. When the battle was over, Deborah praised God for being so great. If we think about it, we can probably come up with all kinds of ways that God has shown his power in our lives, too. And like Deborah, we should take the time to praise God for His power. In fact, that’s exactly what we’re going to do right now—we’re going to create a banner that tells God how great He is.

**Directions:** Place a large strip of butcher block paper or a poster board in the middle of your group along with a box of markers. Choose a kid or kids to write the words “God is Great” in the middle of the paper. They can be as creative as they want with how they write it or decorate it. Commission the rest of the group to help create a beautiful banner to God. Encourage them to write words or draw pictures around the banner that show or describe how great God is. When finished, ask each kid to show what they wrote or drew and to explain what it means. Finally, have the kids in your group help you tape their banner to a wall for everyone to see.

**Question:** What is the greatest thing God has ever done in your life?

### IMAGINE IF MEMORY GAME (Bible Memorization Activity)

**Directions:** Place the Bible verse sign in the middle of the group and read it carefully with your kids several times so they can begin to memorize it. Today’s Bible verse says:

**“Lord you are great. You are really worthy of praise. No one can completely understand how great you are.” Psalm 145:3 (NIRV)**

When ready, remove the Bible verse sign and place the 6 “Imagine If” cards face down in the middle of the circle. Choose a kid to turn over one of the cards. The card will ask the kids to imagine if they were something. (For example: Imagine if you were a space alien.) Tell the kids to recite the verse together from memory as if they were that person or thing. Continue until all cards have been used.

#### Imagine If Cards:

- A Pogo Stick
- An Ant
- A T-Rex
- Being Shocked with Electricity
- Underwater
- At the North Pole in Your Swimming Suit

**Question:** What has God done in your life that is worthy of praise?



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## **PRAYER BANDS** (Group Prayer Activity)

**Say:** Sometimes it can be hard to think of different things to talk to God about. We can sometimes get stuck praying about the same things over and over. We're going to do an activity right now that will help us think about some different things we can pray about.

**Directions:** Place various colors of Tyvek® wristbands in the middle of the group. Allow each kid to choose one color. With a pen or marker, have them write one of the following verses on their wristband:

**“Praise God for his mighty deeds.” Psalm 150:2**

When finished, randomly choose a colored wristband from the remaining pile. Ask the kids who have that color to answer the corresponding question:

**Question:** What is something you can praise God for?

**Directions:** Continue drawing colors until everyone has had a chance to share. Next, open the kids in prayer. When finished, help the kids put their wristbands on. Tell them to keep it on throughout the week and every time they notice it, they can say a silent prayer of praise to God.

