



October 20, 2019

Space Ninjas vs. Pirate Squirrels

The Judges: Gideon

BIG IDEA: God is great, so we should give Him all the glory.

BIBLE BASIS: Judges 6–7

KEY VERSE: “Lord, may glory be given to you, not to us. You are loving and faithful.” Psalm 115:1 (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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3.2 Small Group Lesson | Elementary



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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

I grew up going to the beach every summer with my family. One year, our beach was close to the path of a hurricane. While we didn't have to evacuate, the area was going to be pummeled by strong storms. My dad pulled me aside and asked if I wanted to go walk on the beach with him—right as the storm was rolling in. Though I was slightly nervous, I was also thrilled that he singled me out!

So, we headed out. As we walked down the boardwalk, we were the only people walking towards the beach. Everyone else was frantically trying to leave the area. I started to get second thoughts! But, I was with my dad. I trusted him completely and knew that if he was with me, I was safe.

We walked the beach as the storm came in over the ocean. It was beautiful and magnificent and terrifying all at once! My dad's enthusiasm was infectious and it wasn't long until I was enjoying the adventure even more than he was. I was so glad that I had the courage to go with him.

I'm sure you know where I'm going with this. God invites us to go on adventures with Him, and they are more terrifying and magnificent than walking on a beach when a storm is rolling in. Just like a child feels safe in the presence of a parent, as God's children we can feel safe in the presence of our Heavenly Father. As Deuteronomy 31:6 says,

“Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid of them. Don't be terrified because of them. The Lord your God will go with you. He will never leave you. He'll never desert you.”

God singles us out to go on adventures designed specifically for us. As you prepare to lead the children this week in the story of Gideon, dare to ask God what adventure He has in store for you. May we always have the courage to go on them!

Rebecca Crews
GO! Team Member





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: Are you ready for another week of “Space Ninjas vs. Pirate Squirrels”? This week we get to have another battle for the Wig of Walamazoo. I think we should do something to get ready for the battle, though. Every good team has its own fancy handshake. Let’s come up with one for our team.

Directions: Determine ahead of time if your group is Pirate Squirrels or Space Ninjas. Instruct the kids in your group to work together to create a fancy handshake for their team. Let the kids practice the handshake with each other until they’ve all got it. Later, at the appropriate time during the large group lesson, encourage your group to use their handshake.

Question: If you could have any talent or ability in the world, what would you pick?

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. Why do you think God had Gideon send so many of his warriors home?

For Older Kids:

1. What do you think this story teaches us about God?
2. How do you think the Israelites were able to defeat the huge Midianite army with only 300 men?



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★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

MIME TIME (Application Activity)

Question: Today we learned about giving God the glory for the good things in our life. Does anyone remember what it means to glorify God? (*Answer: to honor and praise God for being so great.*)

Say: When we're really good at something or we do something really awesome, it's easy for us to take credit for it, but every good thing in our life is a gift from God. He's the one who gives us our talents, abilities, and gifts. So instead of taking the glory for ourselves, we should give all the glory to God. We're going to play a game that will help us think about the good things in our life and how we can give God the glory for those things.

Directions: Have the kids in your group think about one of the following without saying what it is:

- Something they're really good at. (*ex. Math, Soccer, Drawing*)
- Something awesome they did. (*ex. Aced a test, built something cool*)
- Something cool that happened to them. (*ex. Got a new dog, made a new friend*)

Choose a kid to go first. Instruct them to act out their talent, ability, or gift without using any words. Let the other kids in the group guess what they're acting out. When someone has successfully guessed, allow the actor to tell a little bit about their talent, ability, or gift and then ask the group the question below. Continue playing until everyone has had a turn.

Question: How could they give God the glory for that instead of honoring and praising themselves?

SLAP IT (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, may glory be given to you, not to us. You are loving and faithful.”
Psalm 115:1 (NirV)**

When ready, remove the Bible verse sign and choose 2 kids to battle one another. Give both kids a set of Bible verse cards. Tell them to mix the cards up and spread them face down on the floor in front of them. Each card has a portion of the Bible verse on it. When ready, have them quickly flip the cards face up and slap them in the correct order while saying the word(s) on each card. The first kid to slap the cards and say the verse in the right order wins the round. For younger kids, their set will have numbers on the top of each card to assist them if needed. Continue playing until every kid has had a turn. If time permits, play an elimination tournament until there is only one champion.

Question: Why do you think God wants us to glorify Him instead of ourselves?

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M&M® PRAYERS (Group Prayer Activity)

Directions: Place a bowl of M&Ms® in the middle of the group. Tell the kids they can take 5 M&Ms®, but don't eat them yet. Before a kid can eat an M&M®, they have to share something based on its color.

Blue: What is something you're thankful to God for?

Green: What is something you're sorry for?

Yellow: What is one way you can give God glory this week?

Red: What is something you need God's help with?

Orange: Who do you know that needs some help?

Brown: Who do you know that doesn't go to church or doesn't know who Jesus is?

When everyone has finished answering questions and eating their M&Ms®, tell the group that they're going to pray for some of the things they shared. After opening the group in prayer, allow the kids time to pray aloud. When the kids are finished praying, close the group in one final prayer.