



JUMP JUMP | WEEK 5 | MAY 29-30, 2021

## 4s-5s Lesson

# Gideon's Army

**Bible Story:** *God's way is always perfect. Gideon's Army • Judges 7:1-8*

**Memory Verse:** "God's way is perfect." 2 Samuel 22:31, NIV

**Key Question:** Whose way is perfect?

**Bottom Line:** God's way is perfect.

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

**KID CONNECT:  
30 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:  
15 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:  
15 MINUTES**

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*Have you ever thought about how many decisions you make in a day? According to some reports, the average adult makes up to 35,000 choices per day. Wow! Some choices are easy—wearing the red shirt or eating the apple instead of the banana. Then, there are the not so easy decisions. What do we do when the decision is hard and we are struggling to know which way to go? We believe the first step to making wise choices is trusting that God's way is perfect. Our prayer is that we can help make many of the 35,000 choices a day our preschoolers will be making one day a whole lot easier. They will know to jump, jump and go God's way, because God's way is perfect!*

**Story Focus:** **God's way is always perfect.** We will wrap up the month with Gideon. Gideon really had to trust that God's way is perfect—especially after he heard God's plan for Gideon to lead the army. Let's just say it was not your typical battle plan. Gideon trusted God because He knew that God's way is perfect.

## WELCOME TIME

### (VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

## OPENING ACTIVITY

### (Several Bean Bags, Floor Tape)

#### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Tape five or six parallel lines about three feet apart on the floor in your activity area.

*During the Activity:* Give the children a bean bag and ask them to place it on their heads. Challenge the children to walk on the lines while trying to keep the bean bags on their heads. After a few minutes, have the children change directions on the lines and walk the other way, still with the bean bag on their head. If the bean bag falls off, instruct the child to simply replace it and continue with the activity. Repeat as desired.

#### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Hey, friends! I see lines on the floor that tell us where to go." (*Point.*)

*During the Activity:* "Let's walk this way on the lines. (*Demonstrate.*) While we walk, we need something to do! (*Demonstrate.*) Place a bean bag on your head and try to walk on the lines while you keep it on your head! (*Do activity.*) Awesome sauce! Now, let's go the other way!" (*Finish activity.*)

*After the Activity:* "Great job, friends. You did what you were asked to do and went where you were asked to go! In our Bible story today, we'll hear about someone who went where God told him to go and did what God told him to do."

*Transition to Large Group...*

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

### SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

(CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE; BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE; BIBLE)

**LGL:** Hello my friends! How are you today? Come sit with me. I am so glad to see you here. I love being here with you!

Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (*kids respond*) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (List rules while counting on fingers)

1. **Be kind.** We can be kind by using our speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders' directions.
2. **Be safe.** We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. **Have fun!** We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

Can everybody follow those rules today? (*kids respond*) Great! KidCity is a place where we learn about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let's say them all together! Are you ready?

1. **I am made by God.** What is it? (*kids repeat*)
2. **I am loved by God no matter what.** What is it? (*kids repeat*)
3. **I am made for a purpose!** What is it? (*kids repeat*)

*LGL holds up Bible in front of him/her.*

**LGL:** Do you know what this is? *It's a Bible!* (hugging the Bible) Oh, I love the Bible! It's so special. The Bible is God's Big Story, and it tells us all about God! We are going to hear a true story from the Bible today.

### WORSHIP

(VIDEO: PERFECT, HE IS AMAZING)

Sing the worship songs together.

### INTRO SKETCH

(No Supplies)

"All this month we've been learning to jump, jump and go God's way. Let's stand up and practice some jumps from our spots. (*Lead kids to jump like a kangaroo and a frog*)

Our story today is about a man named Gideon. God told him to go fight the big, scary Midianites [Mid-ee-an-ights]. Friends, do you think you can march like an army? Let's try together. Let's march in place. (*lead kids in marching in place*) Great job marching everyone! Go ahead and sit crisscross apple sauce. Let's see what else God told Gideon to do. Watch our story.

## WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

What a great story. Gideon started with a BIG army. But God said to make it smaller. Gideon went God's way and won the battle because God's way is always perfect. I think I got the story. Did you get it? If you did, say, 'I got it!' (*Pause*) Good! It's fun to do things like jump like a frog or a kangaroo. But it's even better to do things God's way, because [*Bottom Line*] **God's way is perfect.**

## WRAP UP AND BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE, BOTTOM LINE)

Even when what God tells us to do doesn't make sense we can trust what our Basic Truth says. It says [*Basic Truth*] **I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.** God's way is perfect and He will be with us, guiding us, every step of the way!

## PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE

(CG: MEMORY VERSE)

Let's say our memory verse together. I will say it first and then you will say it with me.

*'God's way (point up)  
is perfect,' (two thumbs up)  
2 Samuel 22:31.'* (*Open hands like a book.*)

*Say it once while doing the motions and then invite the kids to do it with you.*

## PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

## SMALL GROUP

**Bible Story:** *God's way is always perfect. Gideon's Army • Judges 7:1-8*

**Memory Verse:** "God's way is perfect." 2 Samuel 22:31, NIV

**Key Question:** Whose way is perfect?

**Bottom Line:** God's way is perfect.

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

## FEWER AND FEWER

(Lots of Pom Poms or Cotton Balls)

### What You Do:

*During the Activity:* Gather the children to sit in front of you. Give each child a large pile of pom poms (or cotton balls). As you review the Bible story, tell the children to give you some of their pom poms. Then tell them to give you some more of their pom poms. Emphasize that they have fewer pom poms now. Repeat the activity.

*After the Activity:* Talk about how Gideon was going to fight a battle but God kept making his army smaller and smaller. Gideon had to trust that God's way is always perfect, even when he didn't understand how it would work.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Hi, friends! Come sit with me. I want to talk about today's Bible story.

*During the Activity:* "Our Bible story was about a man named Gideon. He was the leader of God's army, and he was leading them into battle. At first, Gideon had a large army. (*Give each child a lot of pom poms.*) Let's pretend you are Gideon and these are your soldiers. Wow! Look at all of the soldiers you have! That's great!

"But before Gideon went to battle, God told Gideon to make his army smaller. I want each of you to give me a handful of your soldiers. (*Take a handful of pom poms from each child.*) There. Now Gideon has fewer soldiers. Before Gideon could go to battle, God told Gideon to make his army smaller . . . again! I want each of you to give me another handful of your soldiers. (*Take a handful of pom poms from each child.*)

"There. Now Gideon has even fewer soldiers. How was Gideon going to win the battle with a smaller army? Gideon had to decide if he would trust God and go God's way or not trust God and run away! Do you remember what Gideon did? (*Pause.*) Gideon trusted God, and he went God's way! And they won the battle!"

*After the Activity:* "Sometimes, we won't understand how God's way will work, but we can always trust God because God's way is always perfect! **Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God's way is perfect!**"

## PLATE HOP

(Four Different Colors of Plates – Multiples of Each)

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Place the plates on the floor randomly all over the activity area. Be sure the color of the plate is facing up.

*During the Activity:* Ask the children to go stand by any plate they would like. Then call out a color and ask only those children standing by that plate to do ten jumping jacks. Ask the children to go find another plate to stand next to and call out a different color. Ask the children standing next to that color of plate to do eight bunny hops. Continue the activity by asking the children to keep changing plates and calling out different colors and different numbers of movements. Examples of movements: jumping jacks, bunny hops, toe touches, twists, head pats, claps, and hop on one foot.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “Today in our Bible story we heard about someone who went where God told him and did what God told him to do”

*After the Activity:* “Let’s practice going where we are told and doing what we are asked to do. First everyone go stand by a plate (*Pause*) Great job! You went where I asked you to go! Now if you are standing by a red plate do ten jumping jacks. Remember, I only asked the ones who are standing by a RED plate to do jumping jacks. (*Pause*) Great job! You did what I asked you to do. Now everyone, go and find a new plate to stand next to!” (*Finish activity as described above.*)

*After the Activity:* “Friends, you are so good at listening and following the right way. We can all follow God’s way! **Whose way is perfect? [Bottom Line] God’s way is perfect!**”

## MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster – 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying.

*‘God’s way (point up)  
is perfect,’ (two thumbs up)  
2 Samuel 22:31.” (Open hands like a book.)*

## PRAYER

Let’s pray together. (*Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap”*)

“Dear God, thank You for (*name each child*). I pray they will trust that Your way is perfect. I pray they will be brave enough to tell others that Your way is perfect. And I pray they will go Your way, even when they don’t understand. Thank You for loving us and helping us go Your way. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

**(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)**

Hand out placemats to parents as they arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.