

ELEMENTARY TEACHING TIME

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Crossover, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

SCRIPTURE | Judges 6

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Summarize the Bible story from Judges 6. Here is one way you can do this:
 - Today's Bible story comes from the book of Judges, chapter 6. This story is about a man named Gideon. Gideon was an Israelite, which means he was a part of God's special family. At this time, the Israelites were really struggling with worshiping idols rather than just God. Does anyone know what an idol is? Yeah, it's something you worship instead of God.
 - The golden calf is the most famous one, which Moses had to teach the Israelites to stop worshiping, but there are others throughout history, as well. Worshiping idols does not make God happy, and God was very angry with the Israelites. As a consequence of their actions, the Israelites spent a long time being ruled by a group of people called the Midianites.
 - God appeared to Gideon and said Gideon was going to be used to free the Israelites from the Midianites. Gideon wasn't so sure, though. So, Gideon asked God to prove it.
 - First, Gideon set out a fleece skin and asked God to make the fleece skin wet with dew, but keep all the ground under it and around it dry. Gideon figured that if God did that, then Gideon would take it as a sign that God was going to do as promised and help Gideon free the Israelites. Guess what happened? If your guess was that the fleece got wet, but the ground stayed dry, you are exactly right!
 - But Gideon still wasn't sure, so the next night he asked God to do the opposite. This time, Gideon wanted the fleece to be dry and the ground to be wet. Guess what? God did exactly what Gideon asked! Knowing God was really and truly on his side, Gideon decided to call together an army of Israelites to fight beside him.

VIDEO | The Story of Gideon

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#) from Pursue God Kids about the outrageous bravery of Gideon.

SCRIPTURE | Philippians 4:7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the Bible verse. Depending on your preferred translation, you might need to prompt the kids with a, "Who knows what surpasses/transcends means?"
- No matter what you're going through, whether it makes sense to you or not, God can give you peace. Peace is when you feel calm and confident. Gideon was asked to do something, and he thought maybe God picked the wrong person. But God cared so much about Gideon, God proved to Gideon that he had heard God correctly.

- Gideon felt that he was ordinary, but God made sure to let Gideon know that with God's peace and strength, Gideon was extraordinary! And just like with Gideon, God can give you peace, too, no matter what!

DISCUSSION

- **Why was God not pleased with the Israelites at the time when Gideon lived?**
- **What did God tell Gideon?**
- **What did Gideon think about this? How did he react?**
- **Read Judges 6:39-40. Gideon asked God for signs to make sure he heard God correctly. Have you ever done something like this to God?**
- **Why do you think God chose Gideon to free the Israelites?**
- **If you were Gideon, would you have reacted the same way, needing reassurance that you heard God correctly?**
- **How do you think it makes God feel when we don't trust God? Do you think it's okay to ask for reassurance like Gideon did?**

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | What Will I Do For God?

- God had a specific plan and job for Gideon to do. And guess what? God has a specific plan and job for you, too!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out blank paper die cuts in the shape of people, as well as something to write and color with. Kids can either write what they feel their calling is or draw what they think their calling might be.*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *For kids with fine motor challenges, consider providing ink stamps, chunky crayons, or markers that are easier to grip as writing/drawing utensils.*
- Take a person and either write down or color a picture of what it is you think you might want to do for God one day. Maybe you want to be a teacher, a doctor, a musician, a missionary, a firefighter, a parent, an astronaut, a ballet dancer, a veterinarian... Maybe you want to be a lot of different things! Maybe you don't know what it is God wants you to do. That's totally okay! You're not alone in that feeling! We can always pray to God for a little guidance to help you discover what God wants you to do.

PRAYER

- Dear God, help us to be brave, just like You did for Gideon, and to stand up for what we believe is right. Grant us peace as we learn to be still and to keep trying to listen for Your voice.