

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



SESSION TITLE: Gideon

BIBLE PASSAGE: Judges 6–8

STORY POINT: God showed Gideon that victory comes from Him.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 John 1:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- beach ball
- permanent marker
- dry erase board or chalkboard
- marker or chalk
- eraser

Inflate a beach ball and write words or phrases from the key passage all over the surface of the ball. Write out the key passage on a dry erase board or chalkboard. Invite the kids to sit in a circle. Toss the ball to a kid. When she catches it, ask her which word or phrase is nearest her left thumb. Erase that word from the key passage and ask the kids to read the verse filling in that word. Then prompt the kid with the ball to toss it to another kid. Continue removing words, repeating the key passage, and tossing the ball in this fashion until the kids can say the key passage from memory.

SAY • John, one of Jesus' closest friends, wrote these words after Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven. This key passage reminds us that repentance isn't just a one time thing. Even after Jesus saves us, we still choose sin sometimes. *What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.*

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them use a table of contents to find Judges 6–8.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why was Gideon afraid to obey God? (*He was the youngest son from the weakest family in Israel, Judg. 6:15*)
2. What signs did Gideon ask God for? (*a fleece to be wet and the ground dry, then the fleece to be dry and the ground wet; Judg. 6:36-40*)
3. What did God do to reduce the size of Gideon's army? (*First, God told Gideon to send home those afraid. Then God told Gideon to send home many men based on how they drank water; Judg. 7:3-8*)
4. Why did God want Gideon to fight with such a small army? *Guide kids to understand that God was teaching Gideon, and all His people, that He was enough to protect them and give them victory. God did not want the people to boast about their victory but to worship Him instead.*
5. What are some ways God gives us victory today? *Guide kids to discuss the fact that God can give us victory in many ways. When we need healing, when we need peace, when we need wisdom to make choices, God can provide us with those things. Help kids see that through Jesus' death and resurrection, our greatest victory, over sin and death, is secure.*
6. What are some things people trust in or boast in today? *Help kids see that many boast in wealth, success, fame, or material comforts. Remind kids that those things, though they can be nice, are not able to save us. We need Jesus to save us and should boast only in Him.*

SAY • God showed Gideon that victory comes from Him.

When we trust Jesus, we have victory in Him.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Cone treats

Fill ziplock bags with treats, like pretzels, small candies, or popcorn. Provide each kid with a paper cone-shaped cup. Allow the kids to decorate their cones with markers, stickers, or other craft supplies. Help them write the story point or big picture question and answer on the cups. Then place the treat bags in the cones. Tell the kids to give the treats to a friend or neighbor who needs to hear about Jesus' love. You may choose to allow each kid to make two, one for themselves and one to give away.

SAY • God gave the Dye family a fun idea to meet more people in the city of Atlanta: snow cones! God wants everyone, everywhere to know He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us. Isn't it exciting that He gives missionaries and us fun ideas to share His good news?

OPTION 2: Gideon's torches

Provide each kid with an empty paper towel roll. Help the kids push red, orange, and yellow tissue paper into one end so that it flares out the top like flames. Use tape to secure the tissue paper.

SAY • **God showed Gideon that victory comes from Him.**

He asked a young son from a weak family to lead an army. Then God reduced the size of the army twice! When Gideon went into battle with torches, pots, and trumpets, it might have seemed they had no chance to win. But God threw the Midianites into confusion, and they fought against themselves. When Gideon's army defeated their enemies, everyone knew that it was really God's victory. In a similar way,

- Allergy Alert
- paper cone-shaped cups
- ziplock bags
- pretzels, small candies, or other treats
- markers, stickers, or other craft supplies

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment in Teach the Story.

LOW PREP

- empty paper towel rolls
- red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- tape

when we trust Jesus, we experience victory over sin and death—not because of our obedience or good work but because of Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection on the third day.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week’s Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.