

God Talks to Gideon

Wanted: Leader of Israel

Judges 6

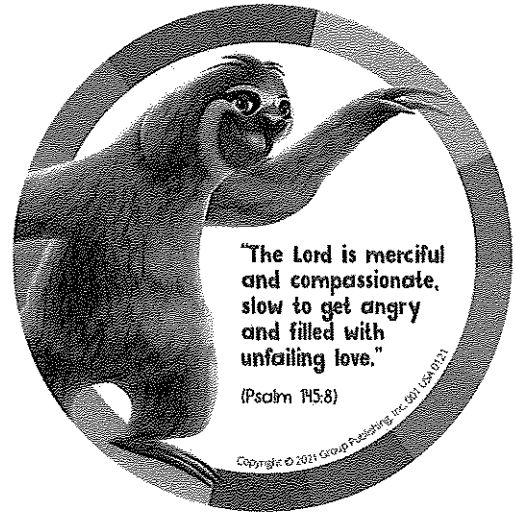
Bible Point

God is patient.

Purpose

What would the world be like if everyone showed the kind of patience God shows us? There'd be less bickering and more grace. Wouldn't that be wonderful? Like God patiently prompted Gideon to gather courage and lead his people, God is patient with us as we believe and trust in him.

You get to show the children you teach what patience looks like. As their leader, gently guide them as they learn to share and play with others. You'll be modeling God's patience, guidance, and grace!



Prayer

Dear God, help me show the kind of patience you offer your children so kids glimpse your unfailing love for them. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prep

Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Goodbye Circle	Apply-It Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Option Cards* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hide the Crayon</i>: jumbo chenille wires, crayons <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Memory Cards</i>: index cards, crayons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music CD</i>* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music Video DVD</i>* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Buddy Video DVD</i>* <input type="checkbox"/> Moe Bible Memory Buddy poster* <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Psalm 145:8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> "God Talks to Gideon" Bible Story poster* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music CD</i>* <input type="checkbox"/> Moe Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Judges 6:14, 36-38) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Game</i>: disposable cups <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Food-n-Friendship</i>: snack, napkins, hand cleanser, <i>Music CD</i>*, media player <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Coloring Creation</i>: "God Talks to Gideon" Coloring Creation pages* (1 per child), crayons, raffia, glue sticks, <i>Music CD</i>*, media player

* in your **Simply Loved Kit**



Opening Options

Set up one—or both—of these intro activities to start your time together. Each activity connects kids to the Bible Point and to each other. Cut apart these Option Cards, and place one by each activity you choose. Crew Guides will follow the directions and build friendships with kids as they make discoveries together!



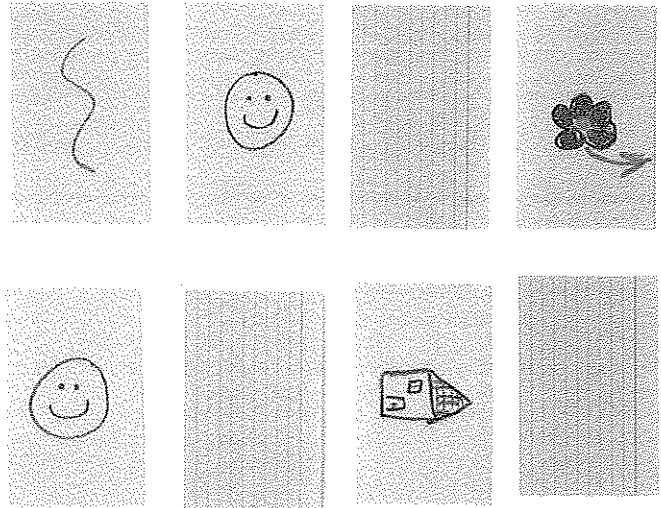
Hide the Crayon

Supplies: jumbo chenille wire, crayons

“Hide” the crayons by wrapping them tightly in jumbo chenille wires. Try not to let any part of the crayon show.

? Tell about a time you hid something.

We had fun hiding the crayons. In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about some people who were hiding. We’ll find out God loved those people, and he was patient with them. God is patient with us, too.



Memory Cards

Supplies: crayons, index cards

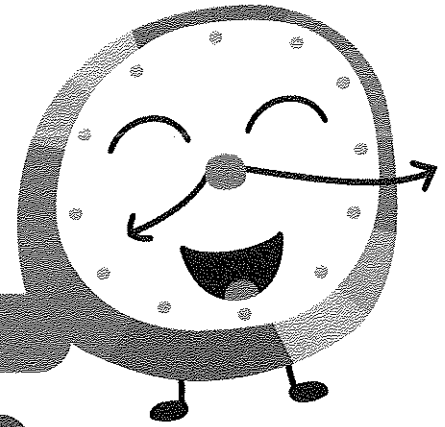
Draw four pairs of simple pictures on index cards. Then play a memory game! Place cards facedown, mix them up, then flip them over to find matches.

? What’s something you remember doing last week?

We didn’t always find a match right away. We had to be patient and keep trying to find a match. Today we’ll see how God is patient. God loves us so much!

Opening

Now's a great time for Opening Options. Choose one—or both—to introduce today's Bible discoveries.



"The Cleanup Song" (*Music CD track 1*)

Help kids transition by cleaning up before sitting with their Connect Crews. A Connect Crew is a smaller group of kids with one Crew Guide.

Sing & Play

Welcome

Hello, friends! We're going to have a blast today! Let's sing our welcome song.



"Hello, My Friends" (*Music CD track 2*)

Let's say hello to our Crew Guides. They're our go-to friends who are here to have fun and learn along with us.

- Kids give their Crew Guides low-fives.

Bible Point

Today we'll find out **God is patient**. Every time you hear the words "**God is patient**," touch your chin, then move your arm forward like this (demonstrate) and say "**Thanks, God!**" Let's do that together.

God is patient. (*Thanks, God!*) **Patient** might be a new word for you. Do these things with me so we can think about what being patient means.

Patient means waiting calmly. Take some deep breaths so you feel calm.

Patient means being kind and gentle. Softly pat a friend on the back.

Patient means forgiving. Give a hug to show someone you're still friends.

I'm so glad God is patient with us. (*Thanks, God!*)

Repeat several times.

Repetition cements learning, so be sure to say today's Bible Point A LOT. Have fun with it! Kids will love listening for it and responding with "*Thanks, God!*"

Supplies

- Bible
- *Music CD*
 - "Hello, My Friends"
- *Music Video DVD*
 - "Good Good Father" music video
 - "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" music video
- *Buddy Video DVD*
 - Moe Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 3)
- media player
- Moe Bible Memory Buddy poster

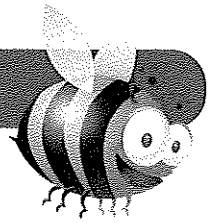


Thanks, God!

When we say "Thanks, God!" we're celebrating that God waits for us, even when we take a long time to do what he asks. **God is patient.** (Thanks, God!) And God is good. Let's celebrate with a song.



"Good Good Father" music video



Bible Memory Buddy & Verse

It's time to talk to our friend Buzzly Bee. Buzzly will help us check in with our Bible Memory Buddy friend. Let's call for Buzzly. Do what I do!

- Flap hands quickly like a bee.
- Make buzzing sounds.



Moe Bible Memory Buddy Video (Week 3)

Our friend Moe reminds us that **God is patient.** (Thanks, God!)

- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster.
- Explain that Moe is *slow*.
- Have everyone march in place slowly.



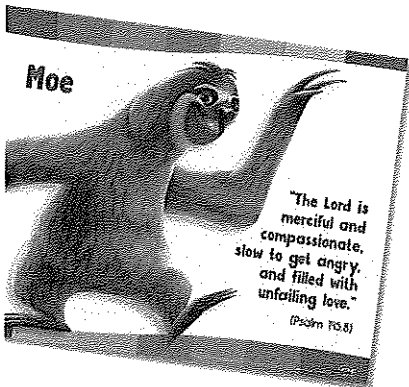
Show the Bible. **The Bible is God's true story of love! Our Bible Memory Verse comes from the Bible. Let's say it together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat after me.**

"The Lord is merciful (*extend one arm*)
and compassionate, (*extend other arm*)
slow to get angry (*slowly move palms down*)
and filled with unfailing love." (*move arms up*)
(Psalm 145:8)

Wow! God has so much love for us, and **God is patient.** (Thanks, God!) Let's sing some more about our loving God.



"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" music video



Bible Discovery

Hold up a Bible. In today's Bible story, God was patient with a man named Gideon. Gideon took a long time to do what God wanted him to do.

We sometimes take a long time to do what God asks us to do, too. But God is calm, gentle, and forgiving. God is patient. *(Thanks, God!)* The Bible tells how God was patient with his people, the Israelites. I'll need your help to tell what happened. Watch and move with me!

- ☉ God's people, the Israelites, made some wrong choices. *(shake head "no")*
- ☉ They got into trouble, and enemies were chasing them. *(run in place)*
- ☉ So the Israelites found places to hide away. *(crouch down and cover head with hands)*
- ☉ And they called out to God for help. *(cup hands around mouth and say "Help!")*

Let's talk about something in our Connect Crews.


- ☉ Get comfy and sit in knee-to-knee circles with Connect Crews.
- 🗣️ **When have you really needed help?**
- ☉ Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- ☉ Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Sometimes we need help when we get ourselves into a mess. We spill juice trying to get it ourselves, and we need help cleaning it up. Or we need help fixing a toy that we broke when we were mad. But when we call for help, our moms or dads or other grown-ups still love and help us.

God heard the Israelites calling for help, too. God is patient. *(Thanks, God!)* So God helped his people. Hold up the Bible. God had a message for an Israelite man named Gideon.

- ☉ Show the Bible Story poster.
- ☉ Point out how Gideon was working with wheat when God came to see him. He was hiding it from the enemies.
- ☉ "Thresh" wheat by swinging a pretend tool down to the ground a few times.


The angel of God came and said to Gideon, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you." *The Lord is another name for God!* But Gideon wasn't sure God was really paying attention because the Israelites were having such a hard time. Listen to what God said.

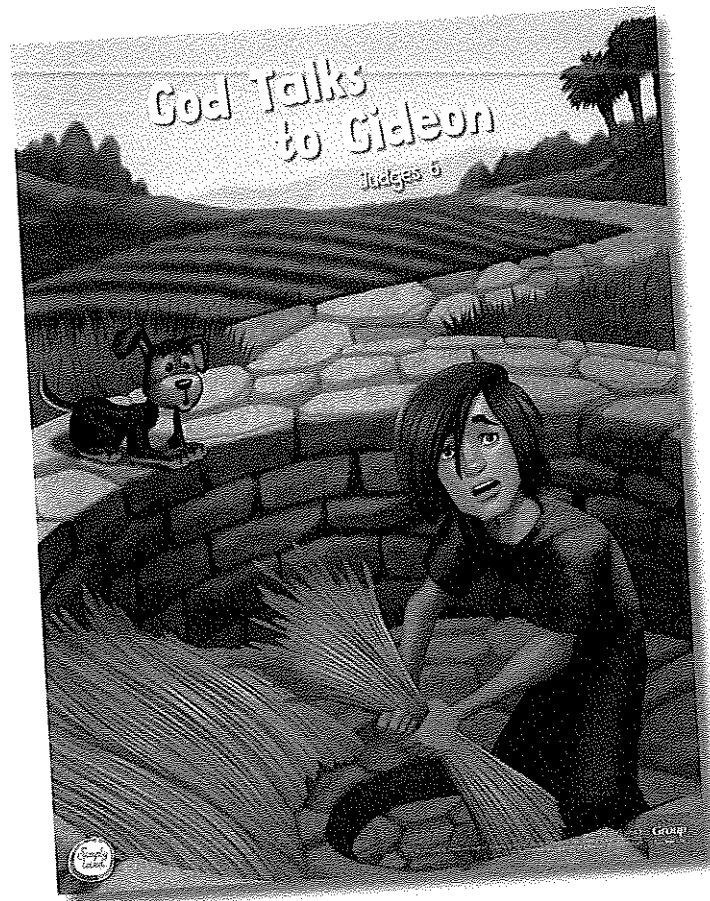
 Read aloud Judges 6:14-16.

Supplies

- Bible
- "God Talks to Gideon" Bible Story poster

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply gather kids in a cozy circle around you. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!

 Read the verse from the Bible. You're showing kids that God's Word is special. Don't worry—we've kept the verses short for young attention spans.



God had a plan to help the Israelites, and he wanted Gideon to lead them! But Gideon wasn't so sure he could do what God asked him to do. Let's talk in our Connect Crews.

- 🗣️ **Tell about a time you weren't sure you could do what someone asked you to do.** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- 👍 Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Even though Gideon was unsure, God was patient with him. And God is patient with us, too. (Thanks, God!) Gideon wanted to know that God would really help him lead the Israelites. So he asked God for a sign—something that'd help him know God would do what he said.

Gideon made some food to offer God. And God ate up all the food with fire. Do this with me.


- 👉 Pretend to bake bread and cook meat.
- 👉 Pretend to gobble up food.

Wow! After that, Gideon believed God and obeyed his instructions. First, God said to get rid of all the Israelites' fake gods. So Gideon did—he smashed them! Gideon told the Israelites that God is the only real God.

- 👉 Have everyone stomp feet as if smashing things.
- 👉 Have everyone hold out one finger and say, "Only God is real."

But then Gideon got scared again. Have everyone show scared faces.

Gideon asked God for another sign. God didn't get mad at Gideon; instead he showed Gideon that he really *was* with him. Let's read about the sign Gideon asked for.

 Read aloud Judges 6:36-38.

Sure enough, the cloth was all wet, but the ground was dry. Gideon wrung all the water from the cloth into a bowl.

- Have everyone pretend to wring out a cloth, and comment on their imaginary bowls filling up!
- Have everyone look worried again.

Gideon *still* wasn't quite ready to do what God wanted him to do. He said, "God, please don't be angry with me, but can you give me one more sign?" God is patient. (Thanks, God!) God wasn't mad at Gideon. He gave him one more sign to show he'd be with Gideon. This time, the ground was all wet, but the cloth was dry!

- Have everyone touch their sleeve and feel if it's dry.

The cloth is dry! That means God's message was true and he'd help Gideon.

God was patient with Gideon, and God is patient (Thanks, God!) with you, too.

- **When you make wrong choices like the Israelites did, God is patient.** (Thanks, God!)
- **When you're nervous to try something new, God is patient.** (Thanks, God!)
- **When you need to know God is really there to help you, God is patient.** (Thanks, God!)

Lead kids in a brief prayer, thanking God for his patience.

Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one or more that fit your time frame to support today's Bible discoveries before the closing Goodbye Circle.



Apply-It Options

Choose one—or all—of these activities to support kids' learning after Bible Discovery.

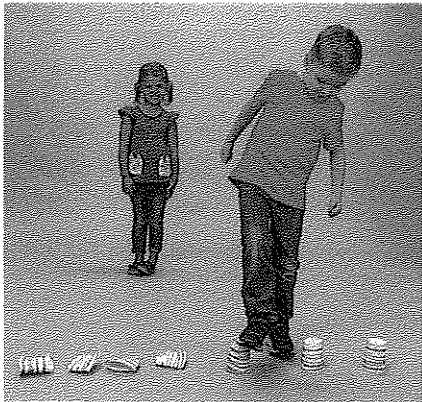
Game

Supplies: disposable cups

Set up cups along one wall.

- Form teams, and have relay races to cups along an opposite wall.
- Once there, stomp on one cup, then run back and send the next person.
- Cheer when all the cups are smashed.

The Israelites made some wrong choices. They even followed fake gods! But like you got rid of the cups, Gideon got rid of the idols to fake gods. He smashed them! God is patient, (Thanks, God!) and he helped his people. He'll help us, too!



Food-n-Friendship

Supplies: snack, napkins, hand cleanser, Music CD, media player

- Give a napkin to a friend and say, **"God is patient."** (Thanks, God!)

 **"God, You Are So Good"**
(Music CD track 3)

- Eat snack together.
- 🕒 **When we pray, we talk with God. Who has something we can talk with God about?**
- Pray together.

God is patient. (Thanks, God!) That means God is calm and gentle. Let's be calm and gentle as we pick up our trash and throw it away.



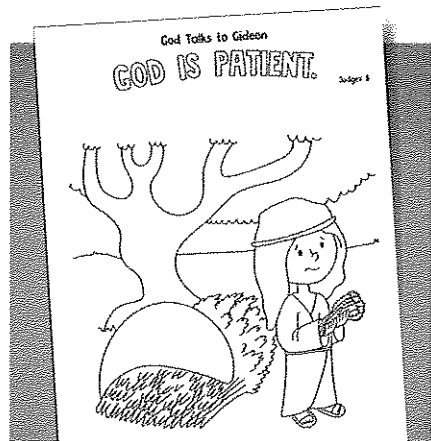
Coloring Creation

Supplies: "God Talks to Gideon" Coloring Creation pages (1 per child), crayons, raffia, glue sticks, Music CD, media player

God is patient. (Thanks, God!) He was patient with the Israelites even after they disobeyed. And he was patient when Gideon needed to be sure of what to do.

- Talk about what kids see on the page.
- Color the picture.
- Have kids glue raffia to a wheat bundle to remember God came to visit Gideon while he was working.
- Play music as kids create.

 **"The Lord Is Merciful"**
(Psalm 145:8)
(Music CD track 5)



Goodbye Circle

It's almost time to say goodbye! Let's sing our goodbye song as we join hands and make one big circle!



"Goodbye, My Friends" (Music CD track 4)

God is patient. (Thanks, God!) **God loves us so much that he gave us his only Son, Jesus. When we are friends with Jesus, he'll help us be patient and loving and kind to others!**

- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster, and remind kids that Moe helps us remember **God is patient.** (Thanks, God!)
- Invite Crew Guides to give each child a Moe sticker to wear or take home by slowly moving it toward kids like a slow sloth while very slowly and with a deep voice saying, "[Child's name], **God is patient.**"

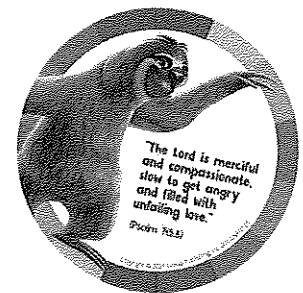


"The Lord Is Merciful" (Psalm 145:8) (Music CD track 5)

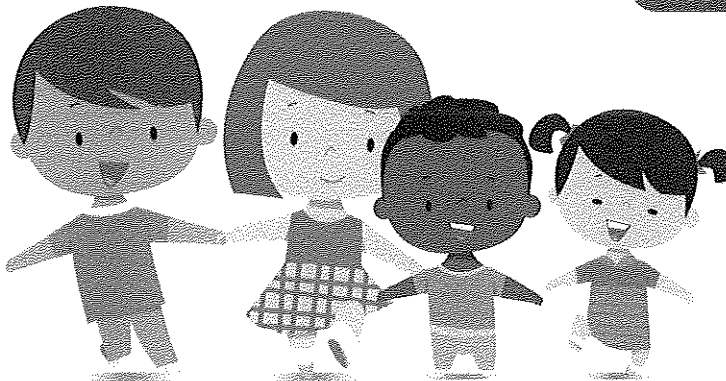
- Do Bible Memory Verse motions and move to the music!

Supplies

- Music CD
 - "Goodbye, My Friends"
 - "The Lord Is Merciful" (Psalm 145:8)
- media player
- Moe Bible Memory Buddy stickers (1 per child)



Saying each child's name in a loving way helps kids simply experience God's love through you!

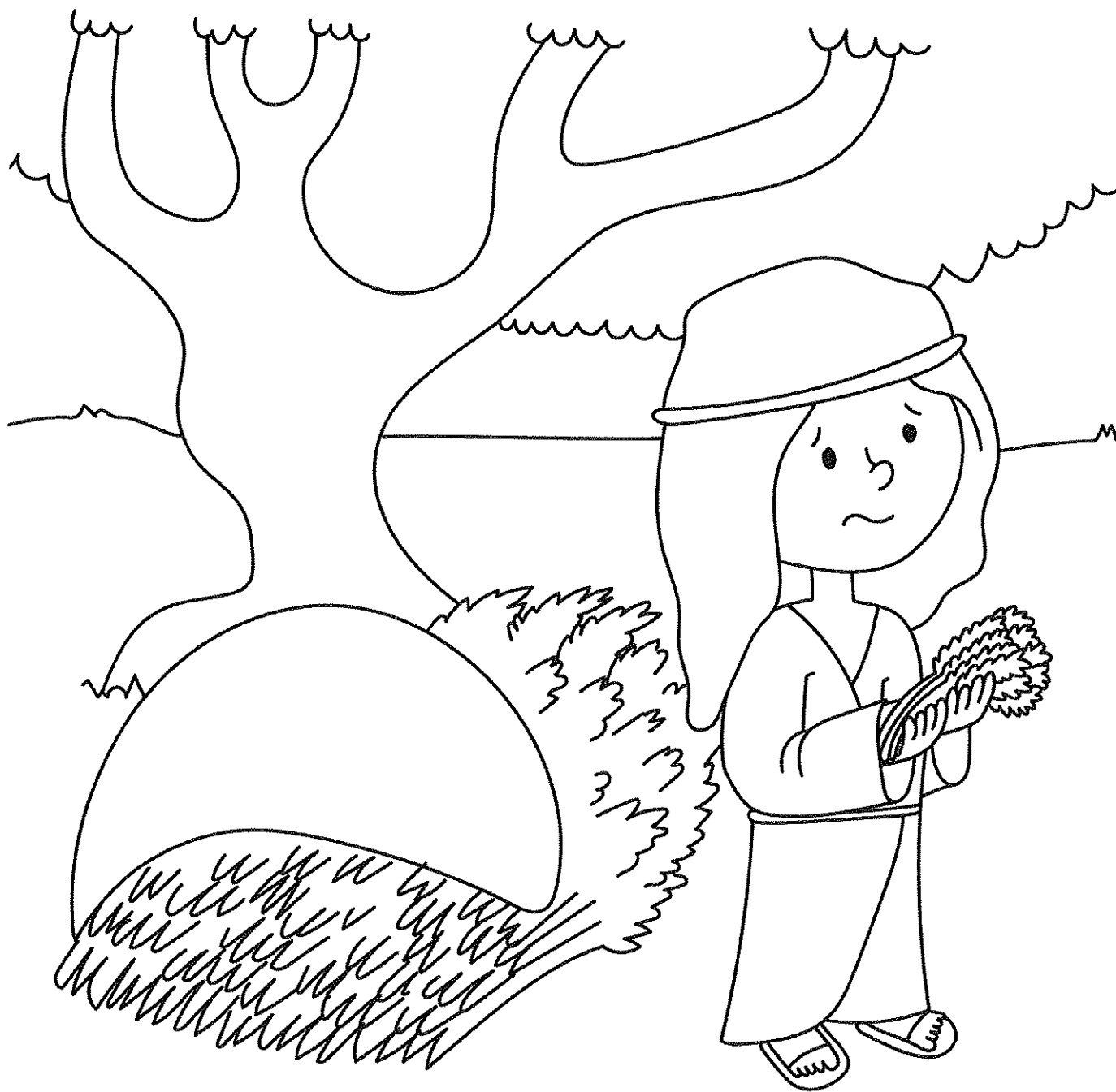




God Talks to Gideon

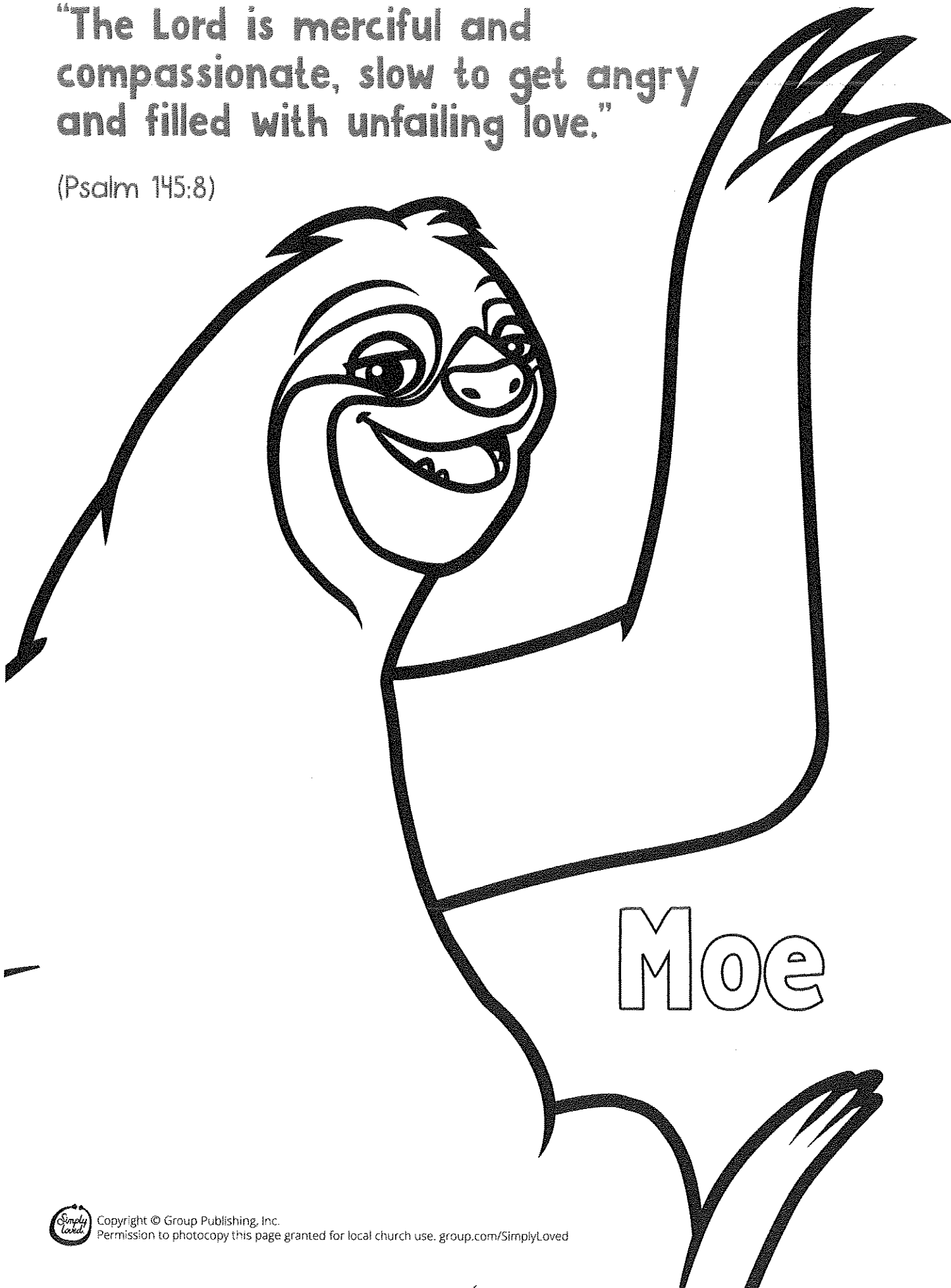
GOD IS PATIENT.

Judges 6



**"The Lord is merciful and
compassionate, slow to get angry
and filled with unfailing love."**

(Psalm 145:8)



God Talks to Gideon

Wanted: Leader of Israel

Judges 6

Bible Point

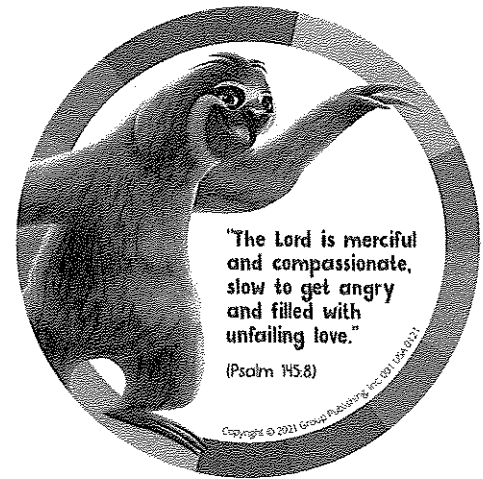
God is patient...and sees our potential.

Purpose

Step in and lead a new class at church? Write a report at work for a project you haven't had time to research? Have "that talk" you've been dreading with a friend?

Sound at all familiar? At times we're all faced with tasks we don't feel capable of handling. That's why Gideon is such a comforting Bible "hero"—he didn't feel capable either. But God knows our capabilities and potential. With God's help, we can do so much more than we think.

Kids are faced with new tasks to conquer all the time, so much more often than we adults. Use this lesson to assure kids that God is always with them, even if they feel scared and incapable. Help kids understand that God is always good and will always patiently help them. His love is unchangeable.



Prayer

God, please help me lead your kids today with honesty and vulnerability. Thank you so much for your steadfast love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prep

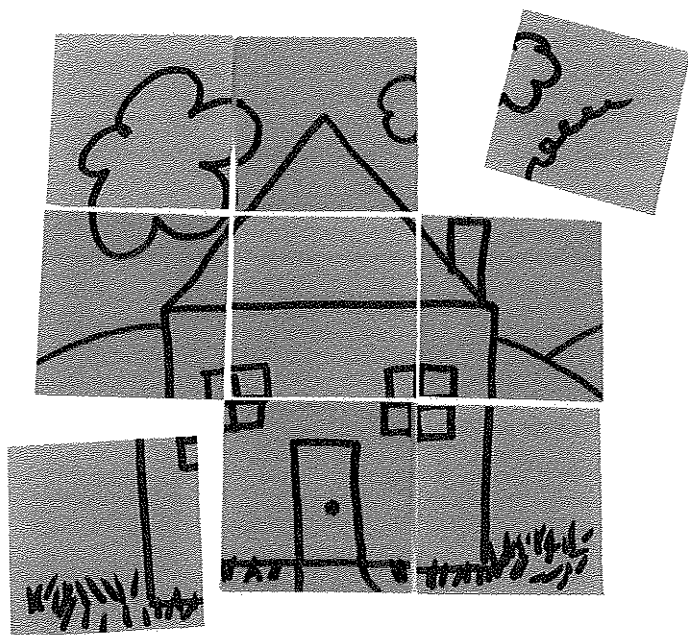
Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Friendship Finale	Apply-It Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Option Cards* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Post-It Puzzler</i>: sticky notes, markers <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cup Caper</i>: ping-pong balls, cups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> countdown video* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music Video</i> DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Buddy Video</i> DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> Moe Bible Memory Buddy poster* <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Psalm 145:8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> "God Talks to Gideon" Bible Story poster* <input type="checkbox"/> Moe Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> Take-It-Home Flyers* (Unit 1, Week 3) (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Judges 6:1-4, 11-12, 13, 14-16, 39-40) <input type="checkbox"/> paper cups (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Explore More</i>: Bibles, paper squares, markers <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Game</i>: smashed cups from Bible Discovery

* in your *Simply Loved Kit*



Opening Options

Set up one—or both—of these intro activities to start your time together. Each activity connects kids to the Bible Point and to each other. Cut apart these Option Cards, and place one by each activity you choose. Crew Guides will follow the directions and build friendships with kids as they make discoveries together!



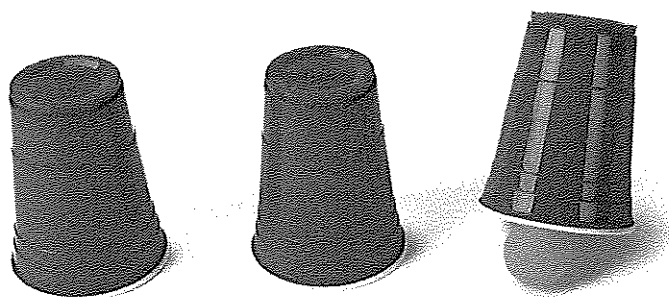
Post-It Puzzler

Supplies: sticky notes, markers

Make a tight grid of sticky notes. Then draw a picture on the grid. Carefully unstick the notes and scramble them. Switch places with a friend and try to put each other's puzzles back together.

? When is a time you were puzzled about something?

It was a little "puzzling" to put your friend's puzzle back together. In today's Bible story, a man named Gideon was puzzled at God's instructions for him. But God was patient with Gideon, and God is patient with us, too.



Cup Caper

Supplies: ping-pong balls, cups

With a friend, place three cups upside down in a row and hide a ping-pong ball under one. Quickly move the cups around while your friend sings the alphabet song. Then let your friend guess which cup hides the ball. Switch roles and play again.

? When is a time you had trouble figuring out something?

We had to figure out which cup hid the ball. In today's Bible story, we'll meet a man who had trouble figuring out what God wanted him to do. But he discovered that God is patient.

Opening

Now's a great time for Opening Options. Choose one—or both—to introduce today's Bible discoveries.



countdown video (1 minute)

Help kids transition, clean up the activities, and sit with Connect Crews. A Connect Crew is a small group of kids with one Crew Guide.

Sing & Play

Hello, everyone! Let's start with a song. Follow along!



"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" music video

There's no turning back! We're ready to dive in and discover more about who God is and how much he loves us.

Bible Point

Today we'll discover **God is patient**. Every time you hear the words "**God is patient**," touch your chin, then move your arm forward like this (demonstrate) and say, "Thanks, God!" Let's try that together. You're learning sign language for "thank you!"

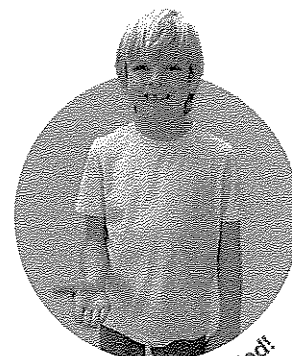
- Touch your chin, then bring your arm forward and say, "Thanks, God!"
- Repeat several times.

Repetition cements learning, so be sure to say today's Bible Point A LOT. Have fun with it! Kids will love listening for it and responding with "Thanks, God!"

I'm so glad **God is patient!** (*Thanks, God!*) But I'm not so patient. I can't wait to sing another song!



"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" music video



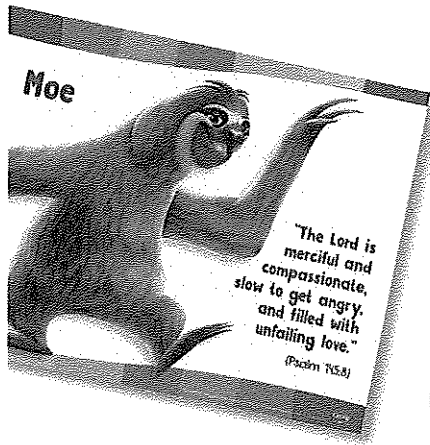
Thanks, God!

Supplies

- Bible
- media player
- *Music Video* DVD
 - "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" music video
 - "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" music video
 - "Good Good Father" music video
- *Buddy Video* DVD
 - Moe Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 3)
- Moe Bible Memory Buddy poster

Bible Memory Buddy & Verse

Moe the sloth is our Bible Memory Buddy! Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster. I wonder how much sloth knowledge is sloshing around in your brains. Let's find out with a This-or-That Challenge! You'll hear two fun facts about sloths. It's up to you to decide which is true—this fact or that!



🗳️ Are sloths only dry-land animals, or can sloths swim?

- Have everyone march in place to vote for *this* (dry-land animals) or make swimming motions to vote for *that* (sloths can swim).
- Make a drumroll sound by patting your thighs or the floor.
- Dramatically give the answer: **Sloths can swim! In fact, they swim three times faster than they move in trees. Let's find out more.**
- Watch the Bible Memory Buddy video.



Moe Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 3)



Show the Bible. **The Bible is God's true story of love! Even though God inspired people to write the Bible a long time ago, it still matters for us today. Let's say the verse together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat it after me.**

"The Lord is merciful (*extend one arm*)
and compassionate, (*extend other arm*)
slow to get angry (*slowly move palms down*)
and filled with unfailing love." (*move arms up*)
(Psalm 145:8)

I'm so thankful that God shows me mercy and compassion. I need both all the time. I don't know about you, but I tend to make the same mistakes over and over, but **God is patient.** (*Thanks, God!*) **God is so good! Let's tell him that now with another song.**



"Good Good Father" music video

Bible Discovery

Circle Up & Connect

Let's circle up and spend a little time simply getting to know each other in smaller groups called **Connect Crews**.

- Form Connect Crews with one helper—or Crew Guide—per group.
 - Invite kids to sit in knee-to-knee circles with their Connect Crews.
 - Have kids give their Crew Guides an enthusiastic two-handed wave.
 - Have kids take turns saying their names and answering this question. Crew Guides go first.
- ❓ **When is a time you were afraid to try something new?**

Experience the Bible Story: Part One

Set overturned cups around the perimeter of your room; you'll need one cup per person. Here and there around the perimeter, set out stacks of blocks.

You know, I think it's natural to be a little afraid to try something new. But when God asks us to do something new, it's because he knows our potential—what we can do. God is patient (Thanks, God!) and will be with us each step of the way.

In today's Bible story, we'll meet a guy who had no idea about his own potential. But God knew!

Let's set up our story a bit and form two groups. Motion to the left. **Those of you in this group are now officially Israelites. Big grins, Israelites! You were God's people! Keep smiling!**

Motion to the right. **Those of you over here are Midianites. Put on your best mean faces, Midianites. You lived nearby and were not so nice. Keep those mean faces for a bit, Midianites.**

You two groups were *not* friends. The Israelites did evil in God's sight, and God let the Midianites come into their territory and cause grief. So wipe those smiles off your faces, Israelites. Let's read about the Israelites and the Midianites.



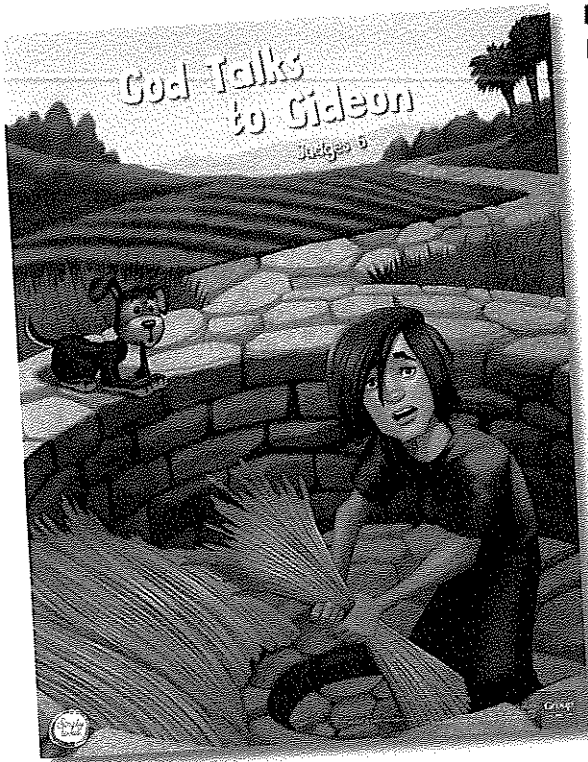
Read aloud Judges 6:1-4.

Midianites, you *loved* being here. You ate the crops the Israelites planted. You stole sheep, cattle, and donkeys and took them for yourselves. Ah! Smile big, Midianites; you were living the dream!

Supplies

- Bible
- "God Talks to Gideon" Bible Story poster
- paper cups (1 per child)
- blocks

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply circle up with the kids. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!



But you Israelites were miserable. And hungry. And scared. Have Israelites pretend to be really hungry. **And scared.** Have Israelites look scared. **Because you were in trouble, you begged God to send a hero who'd get rid of the mean Midianites!** Have Israelites say, "Please, please, please!" **And God heard the Israelites, so he chose a guy named Gideon to help.**

Now that we know the context—or what's going on while this story takes place—let's shift gears a little. Now we'll all pretend to be Gideon. I'll show you what to do, Gideons, so follow my lead.


The Midianites stole all the crops the Israelites grew. If they were able to grow a little grain, the Israelites had to hide it right away so the Midianites didn't take it. So Gideon was hiding and threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress. Thresh wheat with me like this. Move your arms back and forth as if raking.

Normally, threshing wheat is done outside so the wind can carry away the parts you don't need. But Gideon was so scared of the Midianites that he was trying to thresh his wheat in the little space inside a winepress.

Keep threshing, and keep quiet. If those Midianites hear you, they'll grab your grain. Demonstrate threshing for another minute.

Whew! This threshing is hard work. Let's take a break. Better stretch your tired muscles. Stretch your arms over your head. Take a couple of deep breaths. Breathe deeply. There, that's better.

While Gideon was in the winepress, something incredible happened. This is how the Bible describes it.


 Read aloud Judges 6:11-12.

Look all around and over your shoulder. **Um...Gideon? A mighty hero? The guy hiding in a winepress? When I count to three, point to yourself and shout, "Who, me?" One...two...three! Who, me?**

Gideon couldn't believe the angel was talking to him! He was no mighty hero. In fact, he was the opposite. Gideon was a scared hider! Show the Bible Story poster.

Since there was no one else around, the angel *must* be talking to Gideon. But why? And why did the angel say the Lord was with him? It sure didn't feel that way to Gideon. Let's find out what Gideon said.

The Heart of the Matter

 Read aloud Judges 6:13.

God is always with us. *Always*. But Gideon didn't seem to believe that. He felt alone. Let's talk about this in our Connect Crews.

- 🗣️ Has there ever been a time *you* didn't feel God was with you? A time things were going so badly that you felt abandoned by God? Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- ⌚ Give Connect Crews several minutes to discuss.

I'm pretty sure we've *all* felt like Gideon. But God didn't give up on him. God didn't get mad at him. God was patient with Gideon, just like God is patient with us. (*Thanks, God!*)

God doesn't change, and his love doesn't change. But our feelings change all the time, don't they? When I say a feeling, in your Crew call out a word or two that describes what might make you feel that way. For example, if I say "happy" you might call out "birthday party."

Say the following feelings, letting kids call out responses in their Crews after each one: sad, worried, happy, upset.

It sounds like we've all had experiences that made us feel a certain way. And that's okay; it's normal. But feelings aren't faith. Gideon didn't *feel* like God was with him. But God was. After all, God had just sent an angel to talk to Gideon.

It's kind of like this: During the day, the sun shines and we can see things clearly. Look around a bit. Pause. It's nice and bright.

But at night, things look different. Close your eyes and pretend it's nighttime. Pause. Now it's dark, and you can't see the sun. It's gone. But is it really? Just because you can't see the sun doesn't mean it's disappeared. It's still there. You can open your eyes now.

Even though you don't feel God sometimes, he's still there. God hasn't disappeared. And just like you'll see the sun again in the morning, you'll feel God near you again. Feelings aren't faith. Feelings aren't always reliable. But God is. He's always with you, even during dark times when you can't feel him.

Okay, let's get back to Gideon and see what's happening with *his* feelings.



Experience the Bible Story: Part Two

So Gideon has just questioned the angel, saying it didn't feel like God was with him and the Israelites. Here's what the angel said next.



Read aloud Judges 6:14-16.

Uh-oh. Here we go again. When I count to three, point to yourself and shout, "Who, me?" One...two...three! Who, me?

Gideon didn't *feel* like he could do what God wanted him to do. But God knew Gideon's potential, just like he knows *our* potential. God didn't change his plans. Instead, God patiently promised to be with Gideon.

That night God told Gideon to go out and destroy some idols—the fake gods—that were standing near Gideon’s father’s house. They were part of the reason the Israelites had gotten into this Midianite mess in the first place. They had been worshipping idols instead of the one true God! So Gideon was to smash the idols and then build an altar to God.

Come on, let’s destroy some idols and build an altar! But be quiet! Those Midianites might still be looking for us.

Point to the cups and blocks around the room. **Let’s say those cups are the idols and the blocks are wood to make an altar. When I give the signal, run over and smash one cup—and only one—with your foot. Then work together to pile the blocks in the center of the room like an altar. Ready? Go!**

Allow time for everyone to smash a cup and help pile the blocks. Then have kids gather in their Crews again.

Great! One job done! Gideon had been scared; he didn’t feel like he was up for the job. But God was with him and helped him.

But Gideon still had to somehow rescue the Israelites. And once again, Gideon didn’t feel like he was the right person for the job. Here we go again. Get ready to point and shout, “Who, me?” One...two...three! Who, me?

Gideon was still scared, so he asked God for a sign. He said he’d put a piece of wool fleece in the winepress that night. If God was really with him, the fleece would be wet with dew in the morning, but the ground would be dry. And sure enough, the fleece was wet!

But Gideon was *still* scared, so he asked God for *another* sign. Let’s read what it was.



Read aloud Judges 6:39-40.

This time he said it would be a sign from God if the fleece was dry in the morning while the ground around it was wet with dew. And that’s what happened—the fleece was dry.

So if you ever hear anyone say they put out a fleece before God asking him for a sign, this is where that comes from!

Well, this is where we have to leave Gideon for now—with God’s patient promise.

And I also hope you’ll remember that God is patient. (*Thanks, God!*) Even if you don’t *feel* like you can do what God asks, remind yourself that feelings aren’t faith. This time when I count to three, point to yourself and shout, “Yes, me!” Ready? One...two...three! Yes, me!


Now’s a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one—or both—of the following reinforcement activities to support today’s Bible discoveries before the Friendship Finale.

Apply-It Options

Choose one—or both—of these activities to support kids' learning after Bible Discovery.

Explore More

Supplies: Bibles, paper squares, markers

 Distribute Bibles, and help kids find and read James 1:5 together.

God is always willing to give us wisdom! And God won't be upset with us for asking. That's because God is patient. (Thanks, God!)

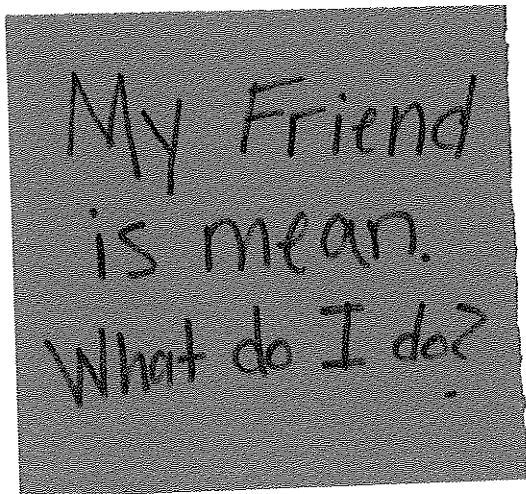
- ② **What situation are you facing right now where you could use God's wisdom?**

Give a personal example as you distribute markers and paper squares.

Gideon used a piece of fleece to ask God for wisdom about what to do. We'll use a piece of paper. Write a question for God about the situation you thought of. You won't have to share your question with anyone but God.

After everyone has written, ask Crew Guides to pray for their kids.

Take your paper home, and put it in a place you'll remember. Then watch for God to answer your question. Don't be surprised if his answer comes at a time or in a way you don't expect. God's amazing, and his ways are way above ours. But he loves us and wants to give us wisdom.



Game

Supplies: smashed cups from Bible Discovery

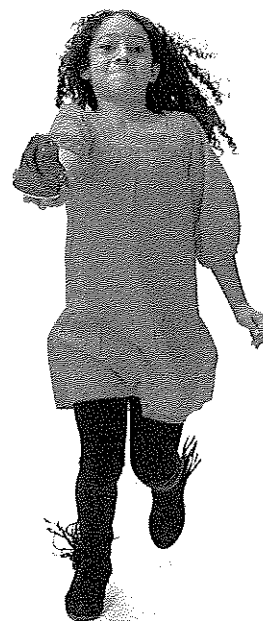
Form two groups of equal number, and have them line up on one side of the room. Give each group an equal supply of smashed cups. Teams will race each other in this fun relay.

In today's Bible story, Gideon smashed the idols to fake gods and used the pieces to build an altar to the one true God. We won't build an altar, but we can use our smashed cups in a fun game.

When it's your turn, grab a cup and race across the room with it. Place it in a pile across the room, then race back.

- ② **What were you feeling as you raced?** Have kids call out their answers.

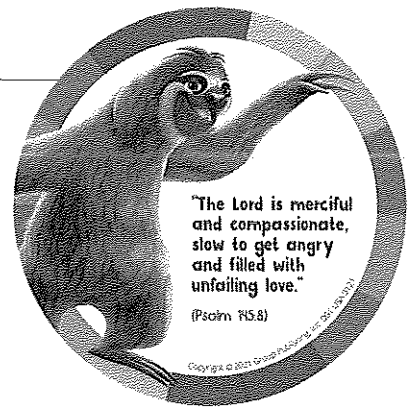
You were feeling like you had to hurry in this game. Gideon was probably feeling the same thing that night as he hurried to tear down the idols. He was afraid to do what God told him to, but God was patient with him. God is patient with us, too! (Thanks, God!)



Supplies

- Moe Bible Memory Buddy stickers (1 per child)
- Take-It-Home Flyers (Unit 1, Week 3) (1 per child)

Friendship Finale



Moe, our Bible Memory Buddy, can help us remember God is patient. (Thanks, God!) You'll each receive a Moe sticker to help you remember God's love and patience throughout your week. You can wear it now, take it home with you, or even give it to a friend or family member.

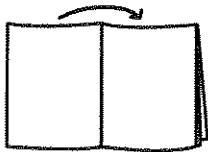
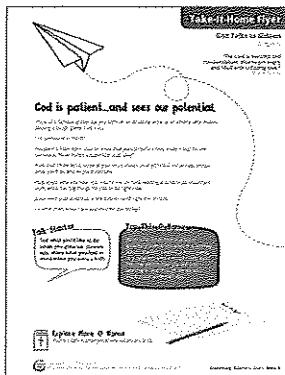
- Demonstrate for Crew Guides how to pretend to slowly "thresh wheat" by moving your hand back and forth while holding a sticker.
- Each child will gently take a sticker from Crew Guides' moving hands.
- After each child receives a sticker, Crew Guides say, "[Child's name], God loves you and is patient." For fun, have kids respond with, "Who me?" Crew Guides can answer, "Yes, you. It's true!"
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has received a sticker.

Saying each child's name in a loving way helps kids simply experience the love of Jesus through you!

God knew Gideon's weaknesses and was patient with him. God knows our weaknesses, too. He knows we mess up sometimes and choose our way over God's way. That's why he sent his only Son, Jesus. Because of Jesus and his love for us, we can be forgiven and given a fresh start.

Listen while I read something about our friend Jesus.

- Read the first section of the Unit 1, Week 3 Take-It-Home Flyer.
- **Now I'll give you one of these flyers to help you talk about Jesus' love in your Connect Crews *and* at home, too. Remember, everyone needs to hear about Jesus!**
- Distribute Take-It-Home Flyers to Crew Guides, and have them share about their own friendship with Jesus as they answer the "Talk Starter" question and then invite kids to share.
- Kids share prayer requests—things they'd like to tell Jesus—in their Connect Crews.
- Connect Crews pray together.
- Crew Guides distribute Take-It-Home Flyers and follow the directions to help kids fold the paper to "fly" home. ○



God Talks to Gideon

(Judges 6)

"The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love."

(Psalm 145:8)

God is patient...and sees our potential.

Think of a famous grown-up you admire: an amazing actor or an athlete who makes playing a tough game look easy.

Got someone in mind?

Wouldn't it have been cool to know that person before they made it big? To tell someone, "Now *there's* a superstar. Just wait!"

Well, that's how Jesus looks at you. Jesus knows your potential. He already knows what you'll do and all you'll become.

Plus, Jesus sees you *now*, too. You're not on hold, waiting around to do important stuff; Jesus has big things for you to do right *now*.

Jesus sees your potential in the future—and right this minute.

So what does Jesus have planned for you today?

Talk-Starters

Tell what you'd like to do when you grow up. (Grown-ups, share what you had in mind when you were a kid!)

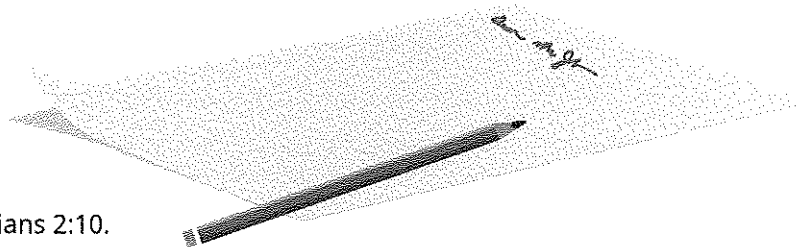
Try-This-@-Home

Write a fan letter to one of Jesus' grown-up friends you admire: a Sunday school teacher, a pastor, a missionary, or a neighbor who lives out God's love. Tell that person how you see God working in and through the person. You'll make someone's day.



Explore More @ Home

You're God's masterpiece! See Ephesians 2:10.



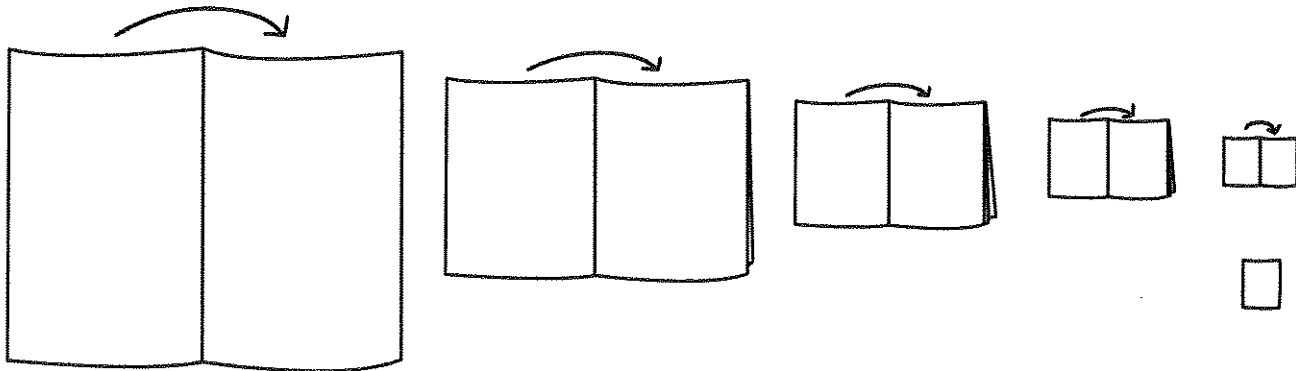
Test this page's potential!

How much potential does this paper have?
When you get home

...have everyone in your family guess how many times you can fold it in half before you can't fold it anymore. Then start folding and see who's right!

Here's how:

- 1 Guess how many times you can fold this paper in half.



- 2 See who guessed closest!

