

*Get Ready!*

## All Things Are Possible With God

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### Text

Judges 7:1-11, 15-22 (NIV)

### Key Quest Verse

Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Matthew 19:26 (NIV)

### Bible Background

The story begins with the Israelites being terribly oppressed by their enemies, and “they cried out to the Lord for help.” Gideon is working in fear, threshing wheat in a wine press to try to hide from the enemy. God sends an angel who comes and says to Gideon, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!” Gideon immediately questions, “If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all the wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian.” God’s answer to Gideon, through the angel, is, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?” Gideon protests—as we do—that he is weak and inadequate. God answers, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together.” About this time Gideon decides that he needs a sign that this IS really God speaking—after all, the message is so unlikely—and God gives him a sign by consuming his offering in fire. Gideon says, “Ah, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!” and God responds, “Peace! DO not be afraid. You are not going to die.” So Gideon builds an altar to the Lord there and calls it “The Lord is Peace.” By Judy Morris

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest**

**What I want my students to:**

**Know:** I want them to know the story of Gideon

**Feel:** I want them to feel that nothing is impossible with God.

**Do:** I want them to ask God for help when they encounter a seemingly impossible situation.

**Leader's Devotion****WEEK ONE:**

In preparing yourself to think about impossible situations you have faced read the account of Peter in prison in Acts 12:1-17. This shows us Peter in prison, and the church praying for him (v. 5). An angel of the Lord appears to him and delivers him out of prison (vv. 7-11). In verse 12 he goes to the house where they were praying for him. A girl, Rhoda, answers the door, announces that it is Peter, and the others tell her she is out of her mind (vv. 14, 15). The people were seemingly praying about an impossible situation for Peter. Even after Peter was set free from prison they had a hard time believing that he was free.

Are we much the same way as those praying for Peter? Sometimes we may fail to see God working in what **we think** may be impossible situations. Pray that God will give you the wisdom to see both the impossible situations and the answers, or the results and give Him praise.

**WEEK TWO:**

You know spring is in the air when you can smell the soil of a freshly turned up field ready for planting. With conservation methods as an all time high, many farmers are doing what is called "no till". It means they never do anything to the field to work up the soil. They take the planter in and go right over the stalks or whatever is already there. After witnessing this kind of planting, and seeing it first hand, I was amazed to think that anything could come up through the already hard clay, and the leftover stalks on the ground. There are some processes that just don't stop though. The corn or beans come up just as if they were in a well cultivated field. It is amazing to see how God has created everything, and how it all works, even when it seems impossible.

This week:

Think about how intricate the human body is and how it works.

Think about creation – the way things grow.

Encourage and pray for one other person who is facing a situation in their life that they may see as an impossible situation.

Pray for each of the students in your class and the things that they face.

Get Set!

Option A



**Materials:** Small Plastic soldiers

**Procedure:** Set up two groups of small plastic toy soldiers. Make the two groups of soldiers face each other and put only about 3 soldiers in one group and about 20 soldiers in another group. Ask the students, “**If this were a real battle, which groups of soldiers do you think would win?**” (Let them answer.) “**The small group of soldiers probably think that this is an impossible situation. Gideon thought that he was in an impossible situation until he learned that God was with him. Let’s read about Gideon in the Bible and how he overcame his impossible situation with God’s help.**”

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

**Materials:** Kitchen knife (Not a sharp one!!), empty clay jar or glass jar.

**Procedure:**

Lay on the table in front of the students the knife and the jar. Ask, “**Which of these two items do you think could be used as a weapon?**” Most will probably say that the knife could be a weapon. Say, “**So if the knife could be used as a weapon, then do you think that you could defeat an army using knives?**” Allow the students to respond. Then say, “**Do you think that you could defeat an army using a bunch of jars?**” Allow the students to respond again. “**Defeating an entire army with a bunch of jars may seem like it would be impossible! Let’s read in our Bibles a story about a man who conquered an impossible situation with God’s help.**”

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

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Get Set!



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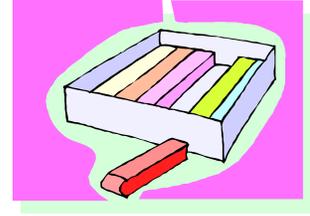
**Bible Story**

**Teacher Tip:** Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

**Materials:** Clay jar, candle, trumpet.

First read the Bible story out of Judges. Then, repeat the story in your own words to ensure that the children understand. Say, **“Gideon was afraid to go into battle because he only had three hundred men. He thought that the Midianites would easily defeat them. But God instructed Gideon to have his men blow their trumpets and break jars (show the children the props) and this scared the Midianites and they all ran away.”** Ask the students if they have ever felt that they have been in an impossible situation. Ask how they were able to deal with it. Say, **“God is always with us and everything is possible with God. He can help you through any situation that you think is impossible. God helped Gideon with trumpets and jars and He can help you too, in different ways.”**

Also see the worksheets entitled “God Guides Gideon” to retell the story.

**Go!****Washing Away Impossible Problems****OBJECT LESSON**

**Materials:** One water balloon filled with water for each student, sidewalk chalk

**Quest Connection**

**Procedure:** God is kind of like a water balloon and if we ask Him for help, He can help us wash away all of our impossible situations. Take the students outside and explain that they are not to throw the water balloons at each other. Instruct each student to pick a spot on the sidewalk or pavement where they can write with sidewalk chalk. Hand out the chalk and let each student write on the sidewalk one situation that they are facing or have faced that they think seemed impossible. Next, hand out one water balloon to each student, and tell them to throw it at the words that they wrote on the sidewalk. The writing should wash away and you can explain that God is like a water balloon and He makes our impossible situations possible with His help.

**Close**

End with a prayer thanking God for His help washing away impossible situations, and praying that the students will remember to call on God for His help when they need it.

**Go!****Reenactment****DRAMA**

**Materials:** Balloons (one for each child), party horns, (blowers noisemakers, etc.) one for each student

**Quest Connection**

**By acting out the story of Gideon, we can better understand how Gideon felt in his impossible situation, and we can better appreciate how God helped him through it.**

**Procedure:** Separate the class into two groups. One group will be the Midianite army and the other group will be Gideon's army. (If possible, the Midianite army should be larger than Gideon's army.) Hand out one balloon and party horn to each child in Gideon's army. Instruct them to blow up and tie their balloons. Then explain to the children that they will be acting out the story of Gideon. Say, **"The Midianite army will sit in the middle of the room, and Gideon's army will sneak up on them and you can all blow your "trumpets" and pop your balloons.** Assist the children in acting out the story and then let them switch armies if they wish to act out the story again. For instance, the children who were in the Midianite army could switch and be in Gideon's army.

**Close**

End by saying **"By acting out the story of Gideon and his seemingly impossible situation we can understand how he felt. And the next time you face an impossible situation, you can remember that God is on your side and He wants to help you. All you have to do is ask for His help through prayer."**

**Go!****What About You?****GUEST QUEST**

**Materials:** Prior to this class, see if an older adult class will participate with your class – explanation to follow, a list of questions for your students to ask to the older adult class, refreshments (optional)

If an entire class is not available, one guest older than the children, will work.

**Quest Connection**

I have seen it very beneficial for older adults to interact with younger children. This is an attempt to bring young and old together to ask some questions and to get some feedback from their point of view. Within the class you could have individuals work together or you could have more of a panel discussion. You could also provide some kind of snacks to share with both classes.

**Procedure:** Some questions to ask, plus you could add any of your own that you think of:

**When you were growing up what kinds of situations that you thought were impossible did you face?**

**How did you handle them?**

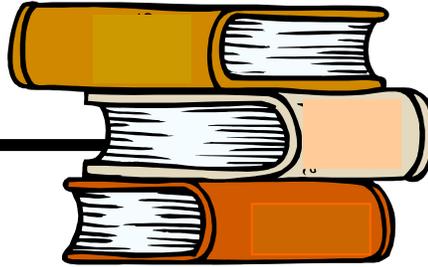
**Did you feel love and support from your parents?**

**When you were my age 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade did you attend church?**

**Were you a Christian? How did that help you in the impossible situations you felt you were in?**

**Close**

No matter how young or old we are we all have things to share with each other. Have refreshments ready to serve.

**Go!****Using A Concordance****STUDY SKILLS**

**Materials:** Bible, an Exhaustive Concordance (there are many of these and they come in various translations of the Bible (New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, NIV, Strong's Concordance, Young's Concordance))

**Quest Connection**

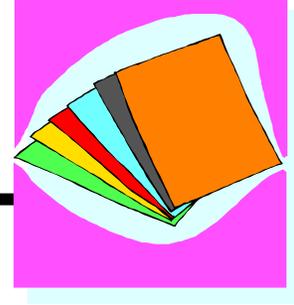
**We are going to learn how to use a concordance.** (If you do not know how to use one, possibly have your pastor or someone else in the congregation show you ahead of time, or have them come into the class and show the students.)

**Procedure:** Look up all the verses listed for the word impossible. Have each person look up in their Bible where the verse is found and read through some of the verses before or after it and see what the context is about. Share with each other the verses that have been looked up.

**Close**

Pray that God will help us as He has helped others when they faced impossible situations.

**Go!**



**Jar Jingle**

**COMPREHENSION**

**Materials:** Coffee can jars, construction paper, scissors, slips of paper and tape

**Quest Connection**

In today’s story, the Israelites used jars to rattle and make noise to let the Midianites know that they could not take advantage of them. These were very important, so we are going to use jars, as well, in our game this morning. The game will help them understand the plot of the story and the people’s motives.

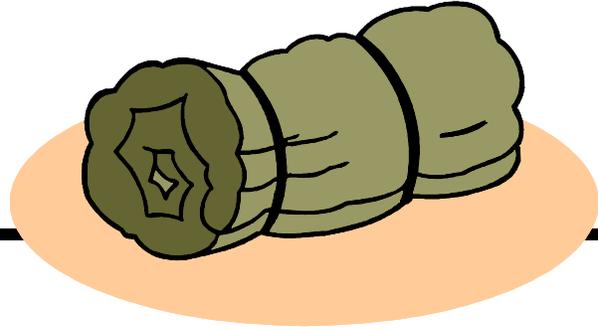
**Procedure:** Before class, take construction paper (black or brown) and tape it around each coffee can for your students, which will be their jar. (Glass jars will not work for this activity). Then put two slips of paper that each has a question on it, in the jar. Now pass out a jar to your students. **For our game today, you will need to have a partner. So, grab a buddy and spread yourselves around the room. Inside of your jar are two questions. We’re going to go around the room and each of you will read a question. Then you and your partner can discuss your answer. Once you think you know it, the two of you will clang your jars together and then give us your answer. You will be making yourselves heard just like Gideon and the Israelites made themselves known to the Midianites.** Play the game until all students have asked their questions.

Example Questions: True or False. Gideon belonged to the Midianites? (F)  
 How many men ended up on Gideon’s army? (300)  
 Did Gideon brag about his victory? (No)  
 The instrument that the Israelites used was  
 drum trumpet (correct) flute

**Close**

By knowing what happened to Gideon, we are able to apply it to our own lives. Who can tell me something good that Gideon did? Gideon can be a good example for us when we continue to serve God. The most important thing Gideon did was when he realized it was really God who gave him the guidance to beat the Midianites. The next time you have a victory, think of Gideon, and remember to thank God for your accomplishment!

**Go!**



### Camp Ground Creation

#### DRAMA

**Materials:** Several bed sheets, sleeping bags, rocks, paper towel rolls, orange and red construction paper, Bibles

### Quest Connection

Your students will use these various items along with their imaginations to change your classroom into a campground. Not just any camp, but specifically the camp of the Israelites. By doing this, they will be able to envision the environment in which they stayed and realize that the Israelites were the “good guys,” and belonged to God.

**Procedure:** In our lesson, we learned that the story took place at a campground. Your task today will involve the whole class, working as a team to change our classroom into the campground of the Israelites. You will use all the supplies that are placed in the center of the room to help you make your campground. You will be given 15 minutes to complete your mission. After you are done, members of your team will have to explain how you used the items and what they stand for. Are you guys ready? Let’s begin!

### Close

First allow your students to thoroughly explain their creation, and ask them questions from the story that relate to their design choices. Of course, then offer encouragement for their job well done. **When we are able to recreate an environment, it helps us picture and understand it a little better. How do you think Gideon felt while he stayed in the campground? Yes, Gideon had a lot of pressure put on him.**

**He had to conquer the Midianites with only 300 men. God helped him though. This goes to show that no matter what kind of surrounding or situation we are in, God will always guide us. Can you think of a time when you would need God’s guidance the most? Let’s end in prayer and ask God to provide guidance for us during tough times.**

How many other times in the Bible can you list that God helped someone face something overwhelming?

- 1. David and Goliath
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

**BUT WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!**

**Matthew 19:26**

**DIRECTIONS:** Cut apart the story of Gideon on the broken lines. Give each student(s) a portion of the story to illustrate on a separate sheet of paper. After they have finished illustrating their part of the story, glue or paste their portion to the page. Have them share their part of the book to the class. the illustrations and story portion could also be displayed on a bulletin board.

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# God Guides Gideon

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God is very interested in His children being successful in impossible situations. He has a special and unique plan for everyone. When we face trouble or difficulty, God is always with us to make us successful.

In this Bible story, we see how God made the Israelites successful in an impossible situation.

God's people were in **BIG** trouble! They were in **BIG** trouble because they were not obeying the Lord. They were not seeking the Lord. They were not obeying His commands and they were definitely not listening for His voice. Because the Israelites were not obeying God, He allowed their enemies to harass them. Their enemies, the Midianites and the Amalakites, mistreated the Israelites by killing their animals and destroying all their crops. Israel's enemies harassed them so much that life was miserable and they lived in fear. They had so many problems; they gave up.

Too much misery!  
Too much destruction!  
Too much suffering!

When life became too much, finally, the Israelites cried out to God.

Help!  
God, help!  
God, please help!  
We need you, God.  
Please help!

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When we are in trouble, BIG trouble, we should always cry out to God because He will help us. God did what He always does when people cry out to Him with humble hearts. God heard their prayers and God answered! God sent an angel to a place called Ophrah to a young man named Gideon, who was threshing wheat all alone. He was afraid of the Midianites would see him and steal his wheat, so he stashed the wheat in a winepress. God's angel saw Gideon in the winepress and gave him a very special message. The angel said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior, go and save Israel from the Midianites. I am with you." WOW! A young man - alone and afraid, becomes God's choice to lead the battle to defeat the Midianites!

INCREDIBLE! But that's God! He is incredible!

2

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But God said to Gideon again, "There are still too many soldiers. Take them down to the water and I will show you which soldiers to keep with you and which soldiers you must send home." So Gideon took the soldiers down to the water. There the Lord told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink." Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. God had downsized the army to just 300 soldiers! God's surprise plan was to win the battle, using a weak leader and a downsized army, against an army so large you couldn't even count them!

3

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God had another surprise for Gideon. God showed Gideon how the battle was to be won. Gideon's army of 300 soldiers was not to attack with swords and spears and shields, but with a light hidden in a jar and a trumpet. This was a rather unusual plan, don't you think? Gideon told his men to surround the Midianite camp at night. He said, "Do what I do and say what I say." So when Gideon gave the signal, the soldiers followed Gideon and broke their jars and shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" When the army did this, God brought total confusion on the Midianites so they began to fight and kill each other. Those that weren't killed, ran away in fear. Gideon and his soldiers chased the runaways and killed them too. The Midianite army was wiped out and they never harassed Israel again. God had wiped out the enemy!

4

God is incredible. He used Gideon, a weak and fearful young man and a army of only 300 soldiers to do His work. They obeyed God and followed His plan and God gave them the victory.

We are also often too weak for God to use us and sometimes we're even afraid, just like Gideon. But it is God's strength and power that wins the battles, not ours. There may be part of our lives, maybe with our family, maybe at school, maybe in a club or on a team, where we would like to be successful. We can have success in our lives if we rely on God's strength and power and if we are willing, like Gideon, to live our lives God's way.

5



**BUT WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!**

**Matthew 19:26**

6



ABABDINED

ALL

ALTAR

BATTELE

CLAY

CONSUMING

ENEMIES

FIRE

GIDEON

GOD

IMPOSSIBLE

INADEQUATE

ISRAELITES

JAR

LORD

MESSAGE

MIDIAN

POSSIBLE

STRENGTH

THINGS

TRUMPET

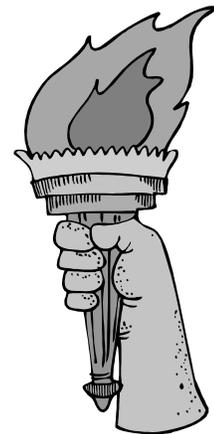
WEAK

# WORDSEARCH

Can you find these words  
in the word search on the  
following page?

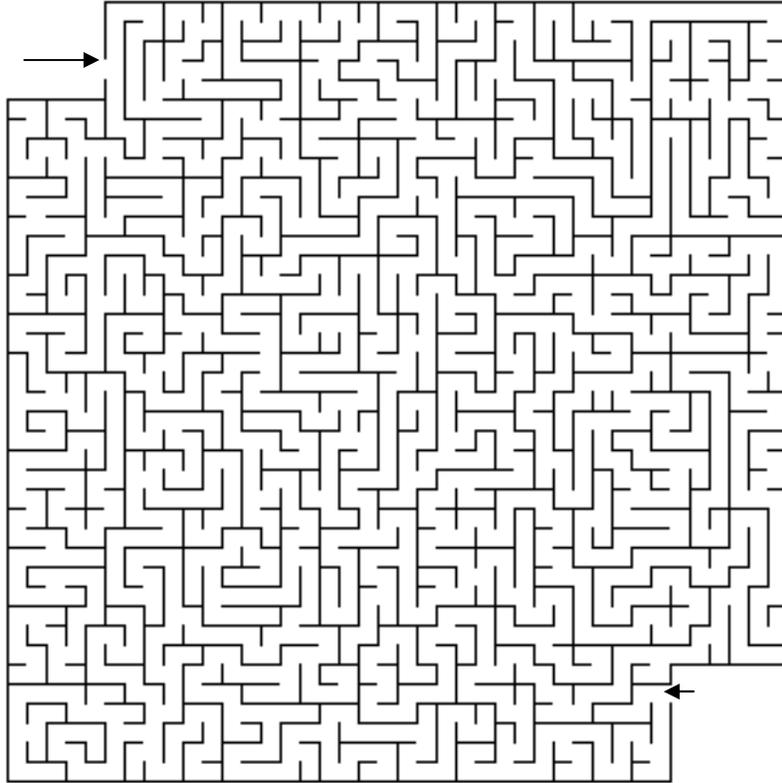
# Gideon

I R E B S W L E M A I W X B T  
U N A L J G L O B Z S A N T R  
M D A J B E N A R G R M D W U  
K E V D T I B I I D A X E Z M  
C N S T E D S D H U E H H I P  
A Q A S I Q E S X T L D T R E  
F B N N A O U D O G I L G A T  
H H E Y N G K A M P T S N T A  
S D G R O Y E L T Y E N E L W  
I M P O S S I B L E S Y R A E  
G N I M U S N O C Z A U T O A  
E N E M I E S U Y L R V S P K  
N A I D I M B Y C A J Z Z G R  
S G K O F I R E L G E D F G T  
Z E Z Y P X F L F D I G J X R



# Help Gideon and his men find their trumpets!

START



FINISH

