



THIS PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

There are many stories in the bible of men and women putting their faith into action and achieving great things for God. In this program, we are learning about some of these 'heroes of the faith' listed in Hebrews 11. Our heart is that kids will see the many ways they can activate their faith in their lives, learning from these great men and women who have gone before us. Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. We don't trust our feelings, or what the circumstance looks like - instead we have faith in God!

Our Repeated phrase is: In this program we are looking at heroes in the bible who stepped out in faith, so we can be encouraged to do the same.

Memory Verse: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see"- Hebrews 11:1

WEEK 6: GIDEON

Gideon is a great example of how we learn to hear God's voice and grow confidence in Him. As we learn to know God's voice and trust Him, we can do brave and mighty things for God to help others! **Faith is overcoming fear one step at a time**

RESOURCES

- A ball for the game
- Wk 6 Connect worksheet, bible and colouring pencils for connect group

PREACH OUTLINE

Story: Tell the story of Gideon saving the Israelites from the Mideanites and the enemies from the East in Judges 6-8. The Israelites were hiding in caves and living in poverty as they were always invaded. Until God called Gideon a mighty man of valour and over time, he became that man of valour. Faith will help you overcome fear one step at a time.

Points to hit:

1. **Faith grows in conversations with God** - God came to Gideon saying that Gideon was a mighty man of valour, but Gideon questioned God. God was patient as Gideon kept talking to God about his doubts, showing him a sign that it really was God speaking. God is patient with you, too! You may not feel like you are able to do big things for God, but as you keep talking to God - He will show you He is with you and you will learn to know His voice, too.
2. **Faith is overcoming fear one step at a time** - Gideon worshipped God and obeyed him, in baby steps! He took down an altar to the false god Baal as God asked, but he did it in the night. He asked God to confirm that He would save Israel through the fleece tests, but He still obeyed God. We too, can take baby steps listening to God's voice - testing if it really is Him speaking and then obeying Him even if we're a bit scared.
3. **Your boldness will grow over time** - Gideon began to trust he could hear God's voice. He listened as God told him to only take 300 men with him to fight and He listened as God led him to spy on the enemy camp. Here he heard he would win the fight! Gideon worshipped God and came back to the Israelites the mighty man of valour God had told him he was, leading the Israelites to victory. As you put one foot in front of the other, listening to God, testing out if you can hear His voice and obeying him, God will make you very bold to do big things for Him, too.

ILLUSTRATION IDEA

Share your own journey with hearing from God and the Holy Spirit. When was the first time you felt God call you to do something? How did you feel? Did you test it was Him speaking? How did it feel when you finally stepped out in faith? It could be anything, inviting someone to sit with you, giving someone a word of encouragement, asking to pray for someone. You name it! Lead the kids in a moment where they think about God, believing they will become aware of His presence - this is the first step!

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

Connect groups are a time to build friendships and engage kids in discussion about the preach. Remember to keep it fun and to pray!

1. Where can we read words from God that help us to follow Him?
2. Gideon was learning to hear God's voice - how did He test that God was speaking to Him?
3. Gideon had conversations with God - how can we do the same?
4. The bible tells us that when we 'draw near' to God he 'draws near' to us! What are some ways we can do that? (James 4:8)
5. Have you ever felt God's presence before? What did it feel like?

Pray: Lead the kids in a moment where they 'draw near' to God by closing their eyes, opening their hands and thinking of Him. Ask if they became aware of His presence? It's okay if not! It will happen in God's perfect timing.

GAME: ALASKAN BASEBALL

1. Form two teams. One team selects a 'thrower' and stands in a circle around them. The other team are all catching, waiting nearby (The thrower is holding the ball).
2. The 'thrower' throws the ball as far as they can and then proceeds to run around the circle their teammates have formed. Each lap becomes one 'run' or point for the team.
3. The other team runs to catch/collect the item. Once caught, they form a line behind the person who captured the item. They then pass the item through their legs from the front of the line to the back and from the back of the line to the front again passing it over their heads this time. Once completed the 'thrower' from the other team stops running and the number of 'runs' they did gets added to their team score. Teams swap roles. Play a few rounds and the team with the most points, wins!