

GIDEON

14.02.2021

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NOTE TO PARENTS from Ps Luke Aiasecca

Thank you for the privilege of ministering to your family through Kidmania Online. Today's Kidmania Online episode was **GIDEON**

Using this parent info sheet at home to support your Kidmania experience WITH your child will help them to get the most out of the episode. You might choose to do it in one sitting, or you might need a few sessions over the week to get through it; you can pace yourself through it as you choose. Even if you did not lead your child through the whole discussion; reading through it yourself will **PREPARE YOU** well to: use what you feel would be most valuable for you and your family; help you facilitate discussion; and answer some of the big questions that kids ask. 😊

The **Main Ideas** section has been designed especially for you, to enter into meaningful **Discussion** with your child; to guide you in what you can **Say** and **Ask**, to actively build faith and wisdom into them. Points and questions build on one another, so there is great value in leading your child through it. We have added a next level which is highlighted - skip it if you feel it is too much for your child's developmental level. The lesson will still progress well if you skip the highlighted areas. To help your child really share what's in their heart and mind, when it comes to **Ask** points, take care to not rush them... give them time to really think and respond. Really show them you are listening and understanding. We've also added **Life Application** points, a **Sum Up** point, and sample **Prayer**.

We are here to support you! If you have any questions you would like to discuss please contact your location Kidmania co-ordinator or email me at luke.aiasecca@enjoy.church. God bless you!



IceBreaker

Family Ice Breaker – Marble Run

This is a fun way to introduce what you will be talking about as a family.

Today we watched as Emma rolled marbles down a board with double-sided cloth tape at the end. She had to carefully tip the board so that the marbles rolled to the end of the board (not off the sides); fast enough so they would roll straight to the end, and slowly enough to be caught by the tape. She had 30 seconds to ensure the tape caught 5.

The game illustrates that there is a certain way of doing things with God. We must only do what is necessary (tilt) and no more, so that He is clearly seen. We direct our attention where He wants it to be. Gideon was told in which direction to look (to the steam of water) and how to know which men to send home (those not alert, who do not keep watch as they drink). The tilt/number of soldiers was reduced, so that they could not say that they did it without God. God is the God of the impossible. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. When we do exactly as God commands, and trust Him, our good works will stick, and not be wasted.

You might like to do this at home. Whatever you do, have fun!



1. **THIS WEEK - read the story of Gideon found in Judges 6-7 together**
2. **Scripture Memory Verses - to read & memorise at meal times**

[use any version you like; we have used a combination of versions/translations/paraphrases to help your child best understand the meaning of the passages and apply it to their lives NOW]

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you” says the LORD, “plans for good, and not for evil; plans to give you a hope, and a future.”

Zechariah 4:6

“It's not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit” says the LORD Almighty.

Isaiah 55:8

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts, says the LORD. And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.”

The Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Introduction to the Discussion:

Ask: Did you know that there are many people who have many fears?

Say: Some people are afraid of sharks, some people are afraid of spiders, others are afraid of snakes. Some people are really scared to speak in front of other people, some people are scared to speak in front of large crowds of people.

Ask: What are you afraid of? [allow time for them to consider and share – show you understand, and avoid trivializing their fears...fears are best faced up to and conquered; not dismissed]

Say: There are all kinds of fears that people can have, but one of the most common fears is FEAR OF FAILURE.

Ask: Why do you think people might fear FAILURE?

Optional: If there is not a varied response and leading is needed

Say: People fear failure because they think if they don't get things right the first time, then they are not good enough, or not as good as someone else who is already good at what they are trying to do. Some people fear failure because they don't know what will happen if everything doesn't go to plan – they are really afraid of what they don't know about and other people's reactions. Maybe they are just afraid that someone will be disappointed in them. Maybe they are really afraid they will be criticised, or told off. They might be afraid that something really bad will happen, like a big disaster.

Ask: Would you agree that most people are not so much afraid that they will create a disaster if they make a mistake, but that they will be embarrassed in front of other people?

Ask: Have you ever felt like that?

If YES, say: You are not alone.

Say: Most people feel this way at least sometimes. The good news is; God is a HUGE God who has BIG plans for us, and He always wants to help us as we choose to trust Him.

Say: Trusting God with His plans for us, and that He will help us can be challenging (hard), especially if we are used to thinking we are not good enough. Trusting God can be challenging when we haven't learned how to hear God's voice, and trust Him. Trusting God can be challenging when we don't believe He would be talking to us, and that God must be talking to someone else; someone we think is better than us.

Ask: Do you sometimes feel like that?

Optional: If time & situation permits, and there is privacy and safety for disclosure

Ask: Would you like to talk about it?

Say: The truth is that God has BIG plans for you, AND you are good enough because YOU have been chosen by God. God doesn't make mistakes. When He chooses someone to do His work He always has the right person, even if they don't think so at first. They are the RIGHT person because God is the RIGHT God!

Ask: Can you think of a mighty warrior in the Bible who was called by God to do something big for God, but he didn't believe he could do it? [Gideon]

Say: Gideon is someone who did not believe that He could be called to do something great for God. He needed some convincing, didn't he?



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...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Going Deeper - Unpacking the WORD:

Say: Here are 3 things we can learn from the life of Gideon.

Say: 1. God sees more in us than we can see in ourselves.

Ask: What was Gideon doing when God called him to do a special job for Him?

Say: He was a farmer - and he was in the wine press threshing the wheat.

Ask: What does that mean - threshing the wheat? [*separating the wheat, from the chaff.*]

Optional: explanation of threshing the wheat in Bible times

Say: To thresh the wheat is to separate the wheat from the chaff. The threshing floor was a platform that would be built on the top of a hill, or on some stilts, in a place with a nice constant breeze. The farmers threw the wheat up in the air. The really light chaff would blow away with the breeze and land a little way down-wind in a nice pile. They would then collect that to feed the animals, and to use a kindling for a fire (it burns easy and so helps to get the fire started). The really useful edible wheat is heavier, so it would fall to the threshing room floor in a nice pile.

Ask: What do you usually do in a wine press? [*Squash the grapes to make grape juice, to make the wine.*]

Say: The wine press is like a big tub or pool where all the grapes are picked from the vines and put in there. Then, people, with very clean feet, walk around on the pile of grapes, squashing and mushing them up. This makes grape juice which is then bottled and fermented to make wine.

Optional: explanation of wine in Bible times

Say: This is a bit different to the wine that is made today, that has a lot of alcohol in it, and can easily make people drunk. Back then most of the wines were not very alcoholic. Because they did not have fridges, and not everyone had a nice cool underground cellar, and it was very hot during the days for most of the year, they couldn't keep the grapes and the grape juice for very long. The grape juice had to be fermented and sealed in barrels to preserve it, so that people could drink it all year round, and so it would not go off/be spoiled, and make people sick. It was very nice, like a strong cordial, or sweet and not very strong fruity vinegar. It was very healthy, with lots of vitamin B and C, and other good things. Making and drinking the fermented grape juice (wine) was a very good thing, back then.

Ask: Is a wine press a good place to thresh the wheat? [*No!*]

Say: Gideon would have been having a very hard time separating the wheat from the chaff in a big tub with no breeze to help him. The wine press was definitely NOT the right place to be threshing wheat!

Ask: So, why was he there? [*He was hiding, from the Midianites, and very afraid!*]

Ask: Can you remember what the Angel of the LORD said to Gideon?

Say: He called Him 'a mighty warrior', didn't He?

Ask: Why would the Angel of the LORD call Gideon a mighty warrior when He could see that Gideon was afraid and hiding in the winepress, trying to do something that needed to be done in the open air?





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...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Say: The Angel of the LORD knew all about Gideon, and He knew He was very afraid and hiding; but He also knew what Gideon's potential was. The Angel of the LORD knew that with God's help, and if Gideon trusted God, then Gideon would be a 'mighty warrior' and achieve God's purposes (plans).

Optional: explanation of the name - Angel of the LORD

Ask: Who was the Angel of the LORD?

Say: The Angel of the LORD was God Himself. This is a name for God; when God wants to talk to people sometimes He will appear to them like this. God is so big and powerful that we would not be able to see Him or be near Him without Him showing Himself smaller and less powerful like this. Even so, it was an amazing sight to see, and anyone the Angel of the LORD would appear to would be amazed and fearful (which means to have great respect and awe). The Holy and all-powerful God of the Universe God was with them!

Ask: When the Angel of the LORD had told Gideon he was a mighty warrior, did Gideon agree with Him? [No!]

Say: He didn't, did he!

Ask: What did he say to the Angel of the LORD? [I am the least of the least]

Say: Gideon told the Angel of the LORD that he was the least of the least. That was like saying to God, 'No, no, you are mistaken, you have the wrong guy!' Gideon didn't see what he could do, even with God's help. BUT... God could see Gideon clearly. God could see the greatness that He had already placed in Gideon. He could see his 'potential'. God could see all that Gideon could do if he would choose to step out in faith.

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11

In Jeremiah 29:11 it says, **"For I know the plans I have for you" says the LORD, "plans for good, and not for evil; plans to give you a hope, and a future."**

Life Application Point:

Say: Just like Gideon, we need to trust that God sees greatness in us. Just like Gideon, YOU need to trust that God sees greatness in YOU. He has chosen YOU, and called YOU to do great things for Him, and with Him. You just need to have faith to believe it. The best thing we can do is to have a relationship/friendship with God, by talking with Him in prayer, knowing Him through His Word (the Bible), and learning to hear and trust Him. When we do this, God gives us opportunities to do great things WITH Him, and FOR Him.

Ask: Do you believe God has placed greatness in you?

If YES, ask: Shall we pray together today for you to be able to continue to believe this, and to be ready for Him whenever He calls you?

If YES, pray: Thank You LORD God, that You have placed faith in this child. They believe Your Word, and are trusting You to call them to do great things WITH You, and FOR You. Help them to grow in their faith, and know You more and more as they wait for their big assignments. And LORD, help them to be faithful in all the little assignments that will help them to prepare for the bigger ones. We know they can do all things through Jesus, Who strengthens them. In Jesus' Name, Amen!





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...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Say: That leads us to our next point.

Say: 2. Our Strength comes from God

Scripture: Zechariah 4:6

Say: In Zechariah 4:6 it says, **“It’s not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit” says the LORD Almighty.**

Say: When God is with you, your REAL strength and confidence doesn’t come from your muscles, it doesn’t come from your smart plans, or from how many people are on your side.

Ask: Where does your strength comes from? [*God!*]

Say: Your strength comes from God!

Ask: When Gideon was getting ready for battle, did the Angel of the LORD keep telling Gideon to go get MORE soldiers to help Him? [*No!*]

Ask: What did the Angel of the LORD keep telling Gideon to do? [*Send more away!*]

Say: The Angel of the LORD kept telling Gideon to send soldiers away!

Ask: This seems like a crazy thing to do right before going into battle against a fierce and scary enemy, so why on earth would the Angel of the LORD want Gideon to send most of his soldiers away?

Say: God was showing Gideon that the battle belonged to the LORD, and not just to the men. God wanted it to be impossible, so that it was clear to everyone that God was doing the biggest part of the battle. God didn’t want His people to say they did it on their own - they could never have, not even with their great army, or an even bigger army. God wanted His people to know that He was with them, and that He was protecting them, and fighting with and for them, because He loved them.

Ask: In the end, what did the people say?

Say: The people rightly said, ‘We won because of our great God. Our strength comes from Him.’

Life Application Point:

Say: Just like Gideon, we need to always be aware of how much we need God, and how much He helps us. We should always give glory to God for the good things He does. When we give God the glory, we show Him that we love Him.

Ask: What can you thank God for today (giving Him the glory)?

Ask: What do you need God’s help with today?

Ask: Will you remember to watch closely to see how He helps you and then give Him the glory?

Ask: How can you do this? [*Pray a prayer thanking Him, testify about it (tell others about it), keep a journal of prayers and answers to prayers and how God has been showing up in big ways and small ways (looking back through such a journal is encouraging when going through a hard time), think of it as You praise and worship Him in church and at home, and continue to ask Him to help and lead You, and continue to trust Him!*]

Say: 3. Gods plans don’t always have to make sense

Say: Usually, when you have a plan it makes sense. Most of the time your plan will make sense to you because you made the plan...and you know how the plan starts, what happens in each step, and how it finishes.





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...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Optional: family sharing time

Ask: Have you wondered what was happening as you went along with Mum and Dad, with their plans?

Ask: Did all of the things they did, and said, and asked you to do, and told you not to do, make sense to you?

Ask: Were there any that didn't make sense to you at the time, but made sense later?

Ask: Can you tell me about it?

Share: A story from your own childhood of not understanding the ways and plans of your parents until you were older, and how you came to see the wisdom in them as you got older.

Say: It can be a bit like that with us and God. Many of God's plans make sense to us...but that's not always the case. Often, God's plans don't make sense to us at all, and we need to trust and obey God until they do. We can only see some of the parts of the plan, and not all of the plan. We can't see how it will work out. Usually we see it all clearly as we look back.

Say: Try and imagine that you don't know the whole story, and how it all works out.

Imagine that you are only up to the bit where the Angel of the LORD finds Gideon in the wine press and calls Him a mighty warrior.

Ask: Are you thinking this will go well?

Say: Imagine still that you don't know how the story ends yet, and that you know Gideon is still scared, and he has been told to send soldiers home, twice!

Ask: Are you thinking this will go well?

Ask: If you were Gideon; what kind of plan would you have liked to make with God?

Ask: Do you think you would have found it hard to trust you were definitely hearing right, as the Angel of the LORD was speaking?

Say: Not only was Gideon from the smallest tribe, he was in the smallest family in that tribe, and he was the smallest in his family. And...he was hiding from the Midianites in a wine press. He wasn't thinking and acting like a mighty warrior. He didn't seem like the best and most obvious choice to lead God's army into battle, with the scariest enemy they had ever seen.

Ask: Would you have chosen Gideon?

Say: If we stopped reading the story there we might even agree that there was some mistake, and the Angel of the LORD was talking to the wrong man. We might think the plan to use Gideon to lead the army of Israel was not a good plan. We might wonder how it could possibly end well. Our choices are not always like God's choices.

Scripture: Isaiah 55:8

Say: In Isaiah 55:8, God tells us **"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts, says the LORD. And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine."**

Say: God knows better than we do!

Ask: When we are thinking differently to the way God is thinking; what is the best thing we can?

Say: We can choose to change our thinking to be more like God's. We can take God at His Word. We can read the Bible and choose to believe it, and obey it.

Ask: Did removing soldiers from Gideon's army seem like a good idea? [No!]





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Ask: Did it seem like the fastest way to loose; not win? [Yes!]

Ask: What did Gideon do? [He trusted God and did as God said.]

Say: Gideon trusted that God knew better, and He chose to do it God's way.

Sum Up:

Say: Kids! We serve a very big God. So big that we can't even imagine how big. He loves us and wants to bring the best out of our lives. He wants to help us. He's got BIG plans for us.

Say: Let's make some declarations! Repeat after me:

- * God has great plans for me...
- * God's plans ARE perfect...
- * His plans don't always have to make sense to me...
- * No matter how things seem...
- * Whether good or bad...
- * In the end He can make a way...
- * For it to work out for my good...
- * If I choose to think like Him...
- * And trust Him...
- * God is my strength...
- * I will give Him all the glory!

Let's Pray!

Say:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You are a Mighty God.

Thank You that You love us and You have great plans for us.

Thank You that Your plans are always good.

Help us to see things Your way, and put our trust in You.

Help us to always remember to give You all the glory and all the praise, because we know that our strength is found in You.

In Jesus' mighty name,

Amen

A PICTURE paints a thousand words!

[You might like to ask your child to use this space to draw a picture that tells you what they have learned today]





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...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Just for fun – the Gideon Quiz!

[Answers are underlined]

1. The Main character in today's true bible story was a man called...
 - a. Midian
 - b. Giddyup
 - c. Gideon
 - d. Ezra

2. God has...
 - a. big plans for me
 - b. small plans for me
 - c. OK plans for me
 - d. medium plans for me

3. When the angel of the Lord called Gideon he was...
 - a. playing hide and seek
 - b. hiding from the Midianites
 - c. making dinner
 - d. practicing his dance moves

4. Our strength and confidence comes from...
 - a. the Holy Spirit
 - b. our Biceps
 - c. wearing a new outfit
 - d. having a big breakfast

5. Gods plans...
 - a. always make sense
 - b. always make you comfortable
 - c. are easy to understand
 - d. don't always make sense

6. God told Gideon to send away soldiers so that everyone could see that...
 - a. they won their battle only with God's help
 - b. its more comfortable without large crowds of people
 - c. there is more food to share with fewer people
 - d. it's easier to hide with fewer soldiers

