

GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN OUR FEARS

FOUNDATION: GOD IS POWERFUL - GOD GIVES STRENGTH

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN OUR FEARS

Deuteronomy 3:1-5, 22; 20:1-4; 31:6; Joshua 1:9; 2 Chronicles 32:7-8; Psalm 3:1-6, 27:1-3; Isaiah 35:3-4, 41:10; John 16:33

BIBLE VERSE: JEREMIAH 32:17B

“O Sovereign Lord! You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power. Nothing is too hard for You!”

BIG IDEAS

- God is all-powerful.
- God is greater than any fear we will ever face.
- God gives faith in the face of fear.
- God always wins His battles.

BIBLE STORY: JUDGES 6:1-15; 7:1-22

God is the most powerful being in all of the universe. There is nothing that is too hard for Him. God chose an unlikely hero to lead His people to victory. He chose Gideon, who was the least of his clan, yet God was strong and through Gideon, God defeated the Israelites’ enemy and gave them victory. God didn’t use the strength or might of Gideon or the Israelites. He gave His people victory through His own mighty strength and power and by doing so, He showed the Israelites that He is more powerful than even their fears.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS POWERFUL—GOD GIVES STRENGTH

God is more powerful than anyone or anything else in the universe. His power is the ability to do what He desires to do. God has a purpose, will accomplish it, and His purposes always bring Him glory. Since God is the source of all power, it means that He gives us strength. We need to do the things He calls us to do. Paul says in Philippians 4:13 that he can “do all things through Christ who gives him strength.” That means that we can do anything and endure anything that God calls us to because it is God Himself who is giving us His strength to do it.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God is more powerful than all things: than creation, than our fears, and than death



Every child should be in awe of:

- Awe for how strong and powerful God is



Every child should be able to:

- Recognize that everything they see and everything they feel is under God’s power



Every child should want to:

- Trust God with all of their fears

FAMILY DEVOTION: NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR GOD

God is all-powerful and the ruler of everything. He controls all things and exercises authority over all things. There is nothing that is beyond God’s realm of control or power. There is nothing that is too hard for Him. Nothing is impossible with God.

GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN OUR FEARS

JEREMIAH 32:17B

“O Sovereign Lord! You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power. Nothing is too hard for You!”

God is more powerful than anything else.

- Jeremiah praises God’s power in his prayer to God in this passage.
- Jeremiah understands that God is more powerful than anything else that exists.
- There is no one more powerful than God.
- There is nothing that can stand against God.
- There is nothing that can stop God because He is the Almighty One.
- No one resists God or stands against Him and no one defeats God.

God is more powerful than anything we face.

- Jeremiah was asked to do hard things by God.
- Jeremiah may not have understood how God was going to accomplish the things He asked of Jeremiah, but he knew that God was more powerful than anything.
- Jeremiah trusted God and believed that God would and could do what He said He was going to do.

Nothing is too hard for God.

- Jeremiah understood that nothing is impossible for God.
- God has all power and can do anything He desires or wants.
- Nothing will stop God or can stop God from doing what He wants to do.
- He is not hindered by anything or anyone. He is not threatened or weakened by anything.
- He can do anything that He desires to do and He does all things for His glory and man’s good.

GOD IS MORE POWERFUL
THAN OUR FEARS**BIBLE STORY: JUDGES 6:1-15; 7:1-22***Gideon*

Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 1:19-20; Job 26:14; 1 Samuel 16:7; John 16:33; Deuteronomy 20:4

Teacher Introduction:

God is a mighty and powerful God and He works in magnificent ways. The Israelites were oppressed by a pagan people group known as the Midianites. The Midianites were a mighty people, as numerous as locusts and continuously stealing from the Israelites. God heard the cries of His people and chose the least likely hero to save them from the Midianites. Gideon was from the weakest clan of Israel, the clan of Manasseh and he was the least of his father's children. God chose Gideon to lead the people in battle against the Midianites and through Gideon, God revealed His great power and might. God is more powerful than anything we face. He works in great and mighty ways and uses people we would least expect. The Israelites were afraid of the Midianites, and rightly so, when we think only through our human lens, but God is mightier and bigger than any fear or foe we face. The Israelites defeated the Midianites and won their freedom from them, but only because God worked through Gideon. God always wins His battles and when we align ourselves with Him, we are victorious.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the narrative: *Gideon*. The four points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Judges 6:1-15; 7:1-22 and teach the narrative: *Gideon*. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson, questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the narrative: *Gideon*.

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a paper with the outline of a rainbow on it. Tell them that they are going to make a very colorful rainbow and whoever makes the most colorful rainbow will get to show their paper to the entire class. Next, give each child only three crayons. Tell them to color their rainbow using many different colors. Once they finish, show them a picture of a real rainbow---one that is very colorful.

- Was it possible for you to make a really colorful rainbow using only three crayons? (No, you could only use the three colors.)
- God can make a rainbow from nothing. Is His rainbow really colorful? (Yes, it is very colorful.)
- God did a mighty thing in our story today. He used only three hundred Israelites to defeat the Midianites, just like you only had three crayons to make a colorful rainbow. God is more powerful than anything or anyone.

GOD IS MORE POWERFUL
THAN OUR FEARS**BIG IDEA: GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL.****God is powerful in every way.**

- God is all-powerful in everything. There is no area that He is weak in and no area that overpowers Him. He has no kryptonite.¹
- He is a God who is strong and capable.
- He is all-knowing and understands every person, circumstance, and situation.
- He had power over the Israelites and the Midianites. Neither people were outside of His control.
- God's power trumps all competing powers and authorities. None stand against Him.



Bring in a container of different sized rocks. Ask the children to touch the rocks and then ask them to break the rocks by just giving an oral command. Tell them that even though we can't do that, God could because He is more powerful than anything.

God uses His power for His glory and man's good.

- God chose Gideon to lead the Israelites' battle against the Midianites, not so Gideon would become a great man, but because God would be most glorified through Gideon.
- God heard the cries of His people and His answer to them was to fight the Midianites, but they were to do so in such a way that they would see God's mighty power and their faith would be increased.
- Gideon was not the most likely candidate for the job of battle commander. He was the least of his tribe. His tribe was the weakest in Israel.
- But God does not choose according to what man thinks is best because He is all knowing and understands the hearts of every person.²
- God worked through Gideon to defeat the Midianites. The Israelites saw the power of God at work and could not deny that it was through God's power they received victory.

God is not hindered by anything or anyone.³

- Nothing stops God. He can overcome anything and anyone.
- He is not hindered by anything and doesn't face obstacles.
- He is never sidetracked or forced to come up with a plan b.
- He was not fearful or worried about the Midianites, though they were a numerous nation.
- He is so powerful that He didn't need to use all of the Israelites to defeat the Midianites.
- He chose to only use three hundred of them even though the Midianites were as numerous as the sand on the seashore.

Who is more powerful than God? (No one is more powerful than God.)

1. Ephesians 1:19-21: God's immeasurable power works for His people. He first worked in His Son, Jesus Christ and He continues to work in the lives and hearts of His people. No one is stronger and mightier than God.

2. 1 Samuel 16:7: God historically chooses the least of people to use in His great plan. He does not see as man sees, or look for the qualifications that man looks for. His ways are higher than ours.

3. Job 26:14: We cannot fathom the power of God because it is so mighty and so great!

GOD IS MORE POWERFUL
THAN OUR FEARS**BIG IDEA: GOD IS GREATER THAN ANY FEAR WE WILL EVER FACE.****God does not fear anything.**

- God does not fear or feel afraid like man does.⁴
- God is mightier than anything or anyone. He does not have to worry that He will be overcome or that His plans will not work out.
- When He chose Gideon to lead the Israelites into battle, He did not fear or worry that they might not win.
- The Israelites were drastically outnumbered by the Midianites, but this did not cause God any fear.



Read 2 Timothy 1:7 to the children. Lead them in a discussion about their fears and how we do not have to fear anything because God is greater than our fears.

Nothing can stand against God.

- God controls everything and every person.
- Nothing can stand against Him. No one will outnumber Him or overtake Him.
- The number of Midianites was nothing to God. He is more powerful than anything.
- The Midianites were very numerous, yet they fell when they stood against God and God's people.
- The Israelites didn't have to strike one person because God's power caused the Midianites to strike each other and run away in fear.

No fear we face is greater than God.

- We will have fear in life because it is part of our human nature to fear, but we can always trust God.
- God is greater than anything we face.
- He works all things for His glory and for our good. We can trust Him when we face anything that is fearful to us.
- Undoubtedly, the Israelites were fearful. They faced a foe that was far greater and more numerous than they were, but they could trust God because He is greater than anything.
- God used the Israelites' struggle against the Midianites to increase their faith in Him. He revealed His great power and might to them through their battle.

Who is greater than any fear we face? (God is greater. He is more powerful and mightier than anything.)

4. Genesis 3:10: It was the sin of man that introduced the emotion of fear. Prior to their sin, Adam and Eve did not fear God or the world they lived in. After their sin, they were naked and afraid. God is sinless; therefore, He does not experience fear.

GOD IS MORE POWERFUL
THAN OUR FEARS**BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES FAITH IN THE FACE OF FEAR.****God provides in our time of need and fear.**

- When we fear, God provides faith by being faithful, Himself.
- He has always done what He said He was going to do and He will always do what He says He's going to do.
- God can always be trusted. He never fails or faints or gives up.
- Gideon trusted God, even though his circumstances were overwhelming or seemed as if they were against him.
- Gideon knew he was the least in his family. He knew his clan was the weakest, yet He believed God and trusted that God was going to do what He said.
- We can have the same trust and belief in God.



Lead the children in singing "Whom Shall I Fear" by Chris Tomlin. Remind them that God is mightier than any fear we might have.

God is steadfast and powerful.

- God can be counted on always. He has always kept His promises and He always will.
- The Israelites could count on God to deliver them even though their circumstances seemed to say otherwise.
- Even though there were more Midianites than there were Israelites, even though Gideon was the least likely person to lead them, even though the Israelites were terribly afraid of the Midianites, God triumphed over every obstacle.
- He fought for the Israelites and He worked their situation for His glory and their good. He was glorified because no one else could have done what He did and they were rescued.

God reveals Himself in our fears which increases our faith.

- It's most likely the Israelites heard that God had chosen Gideon to lead them in battle and they doubted he could do it.
- It's most likely the Israelites heard the plan God had given Gideon and they doubted it would work.
- It's even more likely that they heard God had whittled away at the Israelite army until there were only three hundred men left to fight and they were fearful.
- The reality of their situation was grim, but God is more powerful than any circumstance or fear we face.
- God overcame the Midianites in such a way that the Israelites' fear was diminished and their faith was increased.

How did God increase the Israelites' faith? (He overcame the Midianites in a way that only He could.)

GOD IS MORE POWERFUL
THAN OUR FEARS**BIG IDEA: GOD ALWAYS WINS HIS BATTLES.****God is never defeated.**

- No one wins against God. He is more powerful than anything or person we may ever face.⁵
- God controls all things; therefore, nothing can stand against Him.
- Though the Midianites were numerous and mighty, they were not stronger than God. They did not conquer Him or overtake Him.
- God defeated the Midianites in such a way that the Israelites never even used their swords to strike one person.

No one can stand against God.

- God will always win and we can rest in this truth.
- He will use people to defeat their enemies, but it will be done in His power.
- He worked through Gideon and three hundred of the Israelites to defeat the Midianites, but there was no denying that the victory belonged to God and was only possible because of God.

We do not have to fear because God always wins.⁶

- No one is greater than God or more powerful. No one is all-powerful like God is.
- No one outnumbered God. Though there is one God and there were many Midianites, they still were not more powerful than God.
- We do not have to be afraid because it is God who fights for us. He has overcome this world and we do not have to fear it. We can trust Him.

Who always wins His battles? (God always wins His battles.)

5. Ephesians 1:21: God is more powerful than any other power because He is the great Creator. He created all things and rules over them.

6. Deuteronomy 20:4; John 16:33: There is no power in this earth or in heaven that God does not control. God fights for His people and they can rest in this truth and know that He will give them victory.

GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN OUR FEARS

HOOKS



God Is All-Powerful

Lead the children in a discussion about superpowers. Help them make a list of superpowers that they know popular superheroes have, such as flying, being bullet-proof, seeing through solid objects, etc. Ask each child to choose a superpower that he or she would like to have. Make a list of the superpowers they choose. Next, talk with them about how God is more powerful than any super power they could possess. He is the most powerful of all.



- Do you know who is more powerful than any super power we might like to have? (God is more powerful.)
- Do you know who is the most powerful being of all? (God is the most powerful.)
- What are some things that God can do? (He can create something out of nothing, He can defeat evil people, He can raise people from the dead, He can be everywhere all at once, etc.)
- God is the most powerful of all.



God Is Greater Than Any Fear We Will Ever Face

Give every child a blank piece of paper. Lead them in a discussion about their fears, then ask them to draw a picture of something they fear. Allow them to describe their fear and then have them tear the paper up and throw it in the trash.

- How easy was it for you to tear your paper up? (It was easy and not hard.)
- How scary are the fears you drew on your paper? (They are very scary.)
- Do you know who is more powerful than any fear you have? (God is more powerful. Just as easily as you ripped your paper, God overcomes our fears.)
- We do not have to fear because God is greater than anything we will ever fear.

God Gives Faith In The Face Of Fear

Bring in a fan to blow paper or balloons around the room. Ask the children what is blowing the paper or balloons.

- What causes the balloons or paper to blow around? (They may answer the fan or the wind or the air.)
- Can you see the wind from the fan? (No, we can't see it, but we can see what it does. It blows the paper or balloons.)
- Faith is believing in things we can't see. We can't see God face to face, but we can see the things He does. We can trust Him because He fights for us.