FAITHFUL Followers

Memory Verse: ***"But you are chosen people. You are the King's priests. You are a holy nation. You are a nation that belongs to God alone." 1 Peter 2:9a***

Big Idea: ***God calls His people because He loves.***

Bible Story: A Judge named Gideon | Judges 6-8

Gear Up - Arrival

Greet children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

Opening Activities: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

Memory Verse Game – Act It Out

What you'll need: memory verse, small cards, markers, tape (optional)
How to Play: Leaders write the verse on small cards; splitting it into 4–6 small chunks

- But you are chosen people.
- You are the King's priests.
- You are a holy nation.
- You are a nation that belongs to God alone.
- 1 Peter 2:9a

Scouts (K-2): Gather the kids around in a circle. Leader reads the first verse card and puts a motion with that phrase. Kids repeat and copy the motion.
Continue to the second phrase of the verse.
Leader reads the second verse card and puts a new motion with it. Kids repeat.
Continue on to the end of the memory verse.

Navigators (3-5): Encourage kids to get into small groups. You'll need 4 or 5 groups total. Leaders give each group a phrase from the verse. Have the kids read it and plan motions to share with the class. Then have the groups present in order the entire memory verse with their created motions.

Get-To-Know-You Game – You Belong Here

What you'll need: puzzle piece print outs, tape
How to Play: Have kids decorate and personalize their own puzzle piece. Using tape, begin to put the puzzle together on a classroom wall.

Gear Up - Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

Gather kids together in a space where they can see the TV.
Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

PRAY FIRST! We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

Lesson Introduction – 5 minutes

Share the Lesson Intro with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

Say: *"Hey KXP! Before we get to this week's true story from the Bible, let's recap a little. Last week we learned about a woman named Deborah who God called to lead the Israelites. She was known as a judge or prophet. A prophet was someone who heard from God and then shared His messages with others. The judges in the Old Testament were leaders. Some were wise and brave like Deborah and some were afraid and nervous to lead. We will meet someone today who was just that. He didn't think he was strong enough to do what God asked him to do, but he made the decision to obey God anyway. His name is Gideon."*

Play the KXP lesson video in your classroom.

Bible Story – 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story below before Sunday to prepare for discussion.

A Judge named Gideon | Judges 6-8

Let's begin in the book of Judges. The people of Israel were caught in a pattern. They would trust and follow God for a while and then they would start to complain. They would trust and then complain-trust and complain. Do you see the pattern? They would decide to do things their own way and act selfishly. They would forget about God and make bad choices. Because the Israelites weren't obeying God at this particular time, He did not protect them from a group of people called the Midianites.

Every year when the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites would come and steal their food. They would take the Israelites sheep, cows, and donkeys and they left nothing behind. The Israelites became very poor and very afraid. Many of them hid in caves and mountains to stay safe. Finally, they cried out to God because they needed His help. God was going to call an unlikely leader.

A man named Gideon was threshing wheat in a hidden place. That meant he was separating grain probably in a cave somewhere. He was doing this in secret so the Midianites wouldn't steal his food. When all of a sudden, an angel of the Lord appeared and said, ***"The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!"*** Gideon heard this and was confused. He didn't feel like a warrior at all! He asked, ***"If God is with us, why are we having so many troubles? How can I save Israel? My family is the weakest, and I am the least important in my family!"*** But God told Gideon ***"Go in the strength you have. I will be with you."***

Hey guys, do you remember our Big Idea for this month? **God calls His people because He loves.** God was calling Gideon to be a leader, a judge of Israel, even though Gideon didn't think he could do the job. Before fighting the Midianites, God gave Gideon an important mission. He must tear down the altar to a false god named **Baal,** cut down the wooden idol beside it, and build a new altar to God. God wanted to remind the Israelites that He was the One that had saved them time and time again.

Gideon was afraid but wanted to obey God. He snuck in at night while no one was watching and tore down the altar. The next morning, the people were angry! They wanted to punish Gideon. But Gideon's father stood up for him and said, ***"If Baal is really a god, let him fight for himself."*** Guess what?! Baal wasn't really a god. He was just a statue. So, Gideon was not harmed.

Gideon was still nervous though. So, he asked God for signs that He would be with him in the battle against the Midianites. Gideon used a piece of wool from a sheep called a fleece and asked God some specific things. During the first night, Gideon asked for the fleece to be wet with dew. God answered and the fleece was wet while the ground around it stayed dry. During the second night, Gideon asked for the fleece to stay dry and God answered. The fleece stayed dry while the ground around it became wet. The Lord did what Gideon asked, and Gideon was sure God was with him.

Then it was time for battle! Gideon gathered 32,000 soldiers to fight the Midianites. But God said ***"That's too many. If they win, they might think they did it themselves."*** God didn't want the Israelite soldiers to rely on their own power.

He wanted them to trust His power. So, God told anyone who was afraid of fighting in the battle to go home, and 22,000 soldiers left**.**

God tested the men again by having them drink water. If they drank in a certain way, they had to leave and go home. Only 300 men remained after that test. I wonder how Gideon felt! He was ready for battle with 32,000 soldiers and now he only had 300! That's a much smaller army for sure.

God really wanted Gideon to trust Him. And to make the situation even crazier, God's battle plan didn't include swords or fighting. Instead, each of the 300 men carried, a trumpet, a jar, and a torch hidden inside the jar. At night, the Israelites surrounded the enemy camp.

Then, all at once they blew their trumpets, smashed their jars, held up their torches, and shouted ***"A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"*** The Midianites woke up confused and terrified. It sounded like they were surrounded by a huge army. But they really weren't. They couldn't see clearly in the dark and they panicked. The Midianites even started fighting each other. The Midianites ran away confused and defeated!

Gideon's small army chased them, and other Israelites joined to help finish the victory. Wow! I think God's battle plan was genius! What do you think? The Israelites were so thankful to God and for Gideon's obedience that they asked Gideon to be their king. But Gideon said ***"I will not rule over you. God will rule over you."*** Gideon did not want the glory for winning the battle. It was God's plan that helped them win and it was God who protected His people. God deserved all the glory. During Gideon's lifetime, the land had peace for 40 years.

Lesson Recap –15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.

Say: *"Just like Deborah's story, we can learn a lot from Gideon. He didn't feel brave, but God used him anyway. He asked questions and learned to trust God. God's power is always greater than our own. Obeying God even when it is scary is the right thing to do. Always give God the credit because He is the real hero of His Big Story. Hey! It's been fun hanging out with you today. Please come back next week to hear about another judge named Samson. You don't want to miss it!"*

Direct the kids to the **Memory Verse** and **Big Idea** posters in your room. Have your class read them together out loud. Celebrate the kids for paying attention and listening well!

Close in Prayer – 3 to 5 minutes

Ask the kids in your room to share any **prayer requests** they have. Give them a moment to **fill out prayer cards** or **choose a prayer prompt** to take home. Then **pray over them**!

- **P**RAISE - *Open with adoration.*
- **R**EPENT - *Recall and connect the Big Idea from the Bible Story to yourself and the kids.*
- **A**SK - *Petition the Lord on the kids' behalf.*
- **Y**IELD - *Close by giving thanks to God for His perfect plan.*

Live It Out – 5 to 8 minutes

Scouts (K-2) – Torch in a Jar

What you'll need: small paper cups; yellow, orange, and red tissue paper; glue or tape; crayons or markers; stickers (optional)

Decorate the "Jar"

- Give each child a paper cup.
- Let them color or decorate it.
- Explain: *"This is like the jar Gideon's soldiers carried!"*

Make the "Torch"

- Crumple small pieces of yellow, orange, and red tissue paper.
- Stick them into the top of the cup so they look like a flame. 🔥

Put It Together

- Tape or glue the tissue paper inside.
- Now the cup looks like a glowing torch!

Keep it simple and interactive:

- "Did Gideon have a big army or a small army?"
- "What did the soldiers carry?" (Let kids answer. jars, torches, trumpets!)
- "Who helped Gideon win?" (God!)

Navigators (3-5) – 300 vs. the Odds

Set up: Divide students into groups of "armies."
Give each group:

- 20–30 paper "soldiers" (index cards or slips of paper)

Round 1: Fear Test 😟

Leader says: "Anyone who is afraid can go home!"
Students secretly choose some soldiers to "leave."
👉 Remove about half the group.

Talk about it:

- "Why do you think God didn't want a huge army?"
- "How did it feel to have your army get smaller?"

Round 2: Water Test 💧

Explain:
Some soldiers drink water one way, others another way (like the story).
Then randomly reduce the group again until only a few remain (simulate the shrinking to 300).

Point:
Even when numbers go down, God's plan is still working.

🏺 The Secret Weapon Challenge

Now tell the kids:

- No swords allowed
- Only:
  - "trumpets" (paper rolled into tubes)
  - "jars" (cups)
  - "torches" (paper flames)

Task:
In small groups, students must plan:
"How could we scare a huge army using only noise, light, and surprise?"
Let them brainstorm creative strategies.

Leave No Trace – End of the Hour

- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- **Thank them** for coming and **encourage them to invite a friend** and come back next week!
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting on their parents.