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Introduction

Overview

In this series, we take a look at what it means to be a hero in today's world. Some kids only think of fictional characters like "Superman," when they hear the word "hero," but through this unit, we will discover how ordinary people can become heroes with God's help. We will explore the lives of Gideon, Esther, Ruth and Elijah, as we examine the historic events that turned their lives from ordinary, to extraordinary in God's eyes.

Sharing in our adventures is our own Super Dude: a puppet character who has a hard time relating to the human world. He tries to be helpful but his advice is often misspent, as he forgets that as humans, we are limited in our abilities. But as the weeks pass, Super Dude learns there's more to being a hero than simply having "super powers."

Each week contains the following:

- ❖ A brief summary of the week's lesson
- ❖ A suggested order of events
- ❖ A puppet skit
- ❖ A Bible lesson with life applications and questions for reflection
- ❖ An object lesson
- ❖ Prayer time
- ❖ Memory verse with additional puppet skit
- ❖ Activity or Game (based on the lesson)
- ❖ Review questions
- ❖ Prop lists
- ❖ Overheads
- ❖ Resource Pictures to enhance the lessons
- ❖ Highlights (a take home sheet)

How to use the material

Order of Events

The series is divided into a 4-week program, which includes a suggested order of events. The program is designed so that each section connects with the others but feel free to move around or change the order to best fit your group and time frame. You may want to extend or shorten certain sections, or skip a section all together. Adjust it as you deem necessary. If your group gets fidgety or has a difficult time sitting still for longer periods, you may want to rotate a lesson with a time of interaction. Most of the activities and lessons can be moved without any interruption to the overall theme for the day.

Puppet Skits

I suggest using the puppets to open your program each week because the puppets tend to set the tone and mood for the day's lesson and theme. However, moving them to another time in the program won't be a disruption. The skits are designed to reflect the Bible lessons and will help the children see how the stories being taught out of the Bible can relate to situations they may be going through in their own lives.

In this series, the Super Dude puppet comes back during memory verse time, to introduce the verse and explain its meaning. More details are given in the "Memory Verse" section below.

Depending on your staff and volunteers, you may find it helpful to pre-record the puppet voices ahead of time, to retain consistency of character voices and flexibility in puppeteers. Others like the feeling and improvisation available from a "live" performance. Either way, do what works best for you.

***Optional:* If you don't have puppets, you can use other volunteers such as older youth, adult helpers or even kids from your own group.

Object Lessons

Each week will contain an object lesson that coincides with the day's theme. The objects used are simple, easy to find household items. In some cases, pictures of specific items may be used for a lesson, such as a picture of a rocket ship or an explosion etc. The more visually stimulating your objects, the more impact your lesson will have.

Bible Lessons

Although the Bible stories in this curriculum are written so the teacher could read them straight from the text, try not to do so. Become familiar enough with the material so you can act more as a storyteller to your audience: interact with the children and involve them in the whole process. Vary your teaching methods by using voice inflection: make your voice louder or softer, speak with expression instead of monotone, and use good eye contact with the audience. Make the stories come alive through your body language. If you show that you are excited about the story, the kids will be excited about it too. Kids will respond better and retain more information if you involve them in your lessons, rather than simply lecturing to them.

Application

Also built into the curriculum are “questions for reflection” that make the kids think about how the story you are telling can be applied to their own lives. Stories of people who lived thousands of years ago are great, but if the kids can’t see how it’s relevant to their own lives (situations they face today) then they will be missing the whole point of the lesson.

Prayer

Always take some time to pray for the needs of your class. It shows the children you care about them, and also helps serve as a model for teaching the children *how* to pray. As the children become more comfortable, you may even want to let them pray out loud, as well. “Sentence prayers” work well for children: during the prayer time, children use one or two sentences to pray for a specific request, while the teacher closes with prayer at the end.

Memory Verse

Memorizing scripture can be a great way for applying God's principles to every day life. This curriculum is designed to not only memorize God's words, but to *understand* them as well. Time is taken during the memory work to explain the verses, so the children can see how God's words can be an effective tool in their own lives. Again, *application* is important, perhaps more so than the actual memorization. If a child can memorize well, but doesn't comprehend what the words mean, then the whole point of memorizing scripture is lost.

Repetition is almost a *must* in memorizing scripture. Activities are included which will enforce repetition and will enhance the learning process. As incentive, rewards may be given to children who can correctly recite scriptures learned. (stickers, fun erasers, pieces of candy, sticker placed on a unit chart etc.) Learn a scripture in one week, and see who can correctly recite it the following week.

For this unit, the puppet character, Super Dude, comes back to help introduce and explain the meaning of the verse. This interaction takes place in the form of a skit between the teacher and the puppet. Super Dude will offer silly insights on his concepts of the scripture, and often misinterprets many of the words in the verses. This will allow a fun way for the teacher to explain the verses to the kids, without a straight lecture. It also makes Super Dude appear more "human."

Activities

After the Bible lesson, activities are used to enhance, reinforce or apply concepts learned throughout the program. The challenge may be a game, a discussion activity or a physical task, and in some cases, all three. In addition to reinforcing concepts and ideas, the activities are fun and designed to get the children moving or talking, thereby involving them in the day's theme. It also serves as another form of repetition, allowing the material to "soak" in.

Overheads & Resource Pictures

For your convenience, the memory verses for each week are printed on an individual overhead. Also, certain lessons call for pictures of various items or people. If there are pictures to correlate with a specific lesson for the week, they will be located at the back of each week's unit. At the bottom of each page there should be a "footer" indicating what the picture is and what section of the unit it is used for.

Review

Again, repetition is important for storing and remembering information. Review questions are included as another method of this repetition, and also serve to include any children who may have been absent from a previous lesson.

Highlights

These take home sheets consist of brief summaries highlighting the day's events. These sheets have been provided and should be copied and given out to every child after each lesson. This is a way to keep parents informed of what their children are learning and also to provide additional reinforcement for the child at home. These pages are located in the back of each week's unit, along with the other resource pages.

Week 1: Gideon



Summary

Though Gideon was not a super hero and possessed no super human qualities, he was able to defeat the Midianite army with God's help.

Order of Events

1. Puppet Skit: Super *Who*?

Introduction of Super Dude. Two boys struggle to find something fun to do.

2. Object Lesson: Watch the Signs

Road signs help us discover what is ahead. God used signs to help Gideon know what was in store for him and his people.

3. Bible Lesson: Gideon Defeats the Midianites

Judges 6-7

4. Prayer

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:13

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (NIV)

5. Activity: Battle of the Super Heroes

Teams give their super heroes strength by answering questions about the lesson and memory verse.



Puppet Skit: Super *Who?*

(5-8 minutes)

Props: No props except for Super Dude's outfit: he should have a matching shirt and shorts set (or a pair of tights), and on the shirt should be written the letters "SD." He should also have a cape. Some kind of mask to cover his eyes is optional.

Brian: What do you want to do today, Chad?

Chad: Want to play frisbee?

Brian: Naah, we did that yesterday.

Chad: How about watching t.v.?

Brian: No, too boring.

Chad: Then you come up with something, Brian.

Brian: Play baseball?

Chad: With only two people? I don't think so.

Brian: There's got to be *something* fun we can do.

Chad: (*looking up*) Hey, what's that?

Brian: It looks like a bird.

Chad: It's not a bird.

Brian: Okay, it's a plane then.

Chad: It's not a plane either.

Brian: Then what is it?

Super Dude (SD): (*yelling*) Look out below! (*Super Dude quickly flies in and crashes right into Chad, knocking him down.*)

Chad: Owww!

SD: (*They both get up and dust themselves off.*) Hey, are you okay?

Chad: Yeah, I think so, but you need to watch where you're going!

SD: I know. I'm really sorry. I haven't got my landing down yet.

Brian: You're "*landing*"?

SD: Yeah. I can fly real good, it's just when I have to stop I seem to have a bit of trouble.

Chad: Who are you?

SD: You mean you don't recognize me?

Brian & Chad: (*looking at each other, then back to SD, then speaking in unison*) No.

SD: I'm Super Dude!

Brian: *Super Dude*?

Chad: (*excitedly*) Are you related to Superman?

SD: (*agitated*) No! He's not the only super hero in the world, you know.

Chad: Sorry.

SD: So, what were you boys doing before I flew in and tried to flatten you like a pancake?

Brian: We were just trying to decide what we wanted to do today.

SD: Oh. Can I play too?

Brian: Sure, if you can help us figure out what to do.

SD: Oooh, I know, we can build monster trucks and race against each other.

Chad: We don't know how to build monster trucks.

Brian: And even if we did, it would take way too long to build.

SD: Not for me. I could use my super speed and have them all built in a jiffy. Then we could all race.

Chad: Well, not *all* of us.

SD: What do you mean?

Chad: We're not old enough to drive.

Brian: And we don't know how.

SD: Oh. Well, racing monster trucks is a bad idea then. Forget that.

Chad: What about...

SD: *(interrupting)* Wait, I've got it! Why don't we all have a weight lifting contest? I'll set a timer for 5 minutes, and we'll each move as many buildings as we can. Whoever has moved the most buildings when the timer goes off, wins.

Brian: *Move buildings?*

Chad: We can't move any buildings!

SD: Oh, you're right. That would be way too heavy for you. I forgot. How about cars then?

Brian: Look Super Dud...

SD: That's Super *Dude*.

Brian: Look *Super Dude*, we can't lift cars either.

SD: Trees?

Brian and Chad: *(in unison)* NO!

SD: Okay, I get it. You're not as strong as me. Forget the strength stuff.

Brian: I've got an idea. What if we...

SD: *(interrupting)* Ooh, I know—we could have relay races! We could all run to the North Pole and back.

Chad: The North Pole? Are you *crazy*?

SD: The South Pole?

Brian: *(frustrated)* No!

Chad: I know you're just trying to help Super Dude, but Brian and I aren't super heroes and we can't do super hero stuff. We can't fly or lift buildings or run to the end of the earth.

SD: Then, what *can* you do?

Brian: We can play checkers.

Chad: Yeah, let's play checkers.

Brian: I get to be red!

Chad: You got to be red last time.

Brian: But I called it first.

Chad: I want to be red!

Brian: Me too!

SD: Maybe I can help you decide who gets to be red.

Brian and Chad: *(in unison)* NO!

Brian: *(clearing his throat)* I mean, we'll figure it out.

Chad: Yeah, thanks anyway Super Doof. *(Brian and Chad both exit)*

SD: *(calling after them)* That's Super Dude!

The End



Object Lesson: Watch the Signs

(5 minutes)

Props: Resource Pictures (Included)

When you're riding in the car with your family, do you ever pay attention to the road signs? Can you name some of the road signs that you've seen? *(Allow kids to name a few)* What if you're driving along on a road and you come to this sign *(Hold up "stop" sign)* What should you do? *(Stop)*

(Hold up "For Sale" sign) What about this sign? If we saw this sign, what would we expect? *(That something was for sale—someone was trying to sell something like a house, a boat, a car etc.)*

(Hold up "danger" sign) What does this sign mean? *(We should be careful or stay away from that particular place because there might be something that could hurt us.)*



A lot of signs have words on them, like the ones I just showed you, but some of them don't have any words at all, just a symbol or a picture. *(Hold up curvy road sign)* What do you think this one means? *(A curvy road is coming up ahead and we need to slow down and be cautious)*

(Hold up "picnic table" sign) Who knows what this sign means? *(An area that has picnic tables so you can eat food)*

There are a lot of different kinds of signs, and I've only shown you a few of them today. Why do you think we have signs? *(To tell us what to do or what is coming up next)* What do you think would happen if we saw these signs but didn't obey them? For example, what if we saw the "stop" sign, but chose to ignore it? What would happen? *(Someone could get hurt, you could get into an accident etc.)* So, obeying signs is very important, isn't it? And, as we've already said, signs are also very helpful because they let us know what might be up the road ahead. If we're driving and looking for a place to eat, the road signs will tell us what restaurants are ahead.

Today in our lesson, we're going to be talking about a different kind of sign, but a sign that was still very helpful and important to a man named Gideon.



Lesson: Gideon Defeats the Midianites

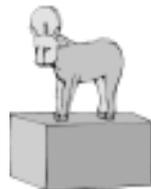
Judges 6-7 (20 minutes)

Props: Resource Pictures (Included)

The Israelites Worship Idols

Gideon was part of a large group of people called “The Israelites.” The Israelites were a group of people who worshipped and believed in God, and God watched over them and gave them many blessings (*things to be thankful for*). But sometimes, the Israelites disobeyed God. They started to worship other things besides God—things called idols. Idols could be made out of anything—wood, stone, gold etc. The idols might be in the shape of a calf or bull like this one. (*Show bull idol picture*). Bulls were supposed to represent strength. Or they might be in the shape of a person, similar to a statue, like this one. (*Show statue of idol*)

Idols weren’t real gods—they couldn’t hear you nor could they do anything for you. They were simply pieces of wood or metal. Idols were just an ordinary object like a chair, or a table. We don’t think of praying to a table or to a chair do we? We don’t expect our chairs to love us or to listen to us or help us with our problems, right? Objects like idols aren’t anything like God, yet, that’s exactly how the Israelites were treating the idols. They would pray to the idols and worship and sing to the idols, and they expected the idols to do great things for them.



Let me ask you a question: do any of you have brothers or sisters? If you do, have you ever done something really nice for your mom or your dad, like maybe take out the trash, or set the dinner table, and then your brother or sister takes all the credit for it? They tell your mom or dad that they were the ones who did the nice thing, instead of you. Has that ever happened to anyone? (*Allow kids to share*) It’s pretty frustrating isn’t it? When you put a lot of thought into helping out and you take the time to do all the work, and then someone else comes along and says they did the work instead of you, it can be very annoying. It might even make us mad that the other person did it.

Well, that's exactly how God felt towards the Israelites. God had been taking care of the Israelites. He'd seen to it that they got out of a very bad situation, where they were slaves to other people. The Israelites were forced to do very hard work for other people and they didn't get paid for it. They were treated very badly, sometimes getting little to eat and even getting beaten at times. But God helped them get out of the situation and He'd been taking very good care of them since then. He listened when the people prayed and He made sure they had all the things they needed, like food and clothes. But instead of thanking God for all of his blessings, the Israelites started to worship idols—pieces of rock or gold—things that could do nothing for them.

The Israelites are Tormented

This habit of worshipping idols made God very angry, and as a result, God allowed groups of people called the Midianites, the Amalekites and several other groups to pester and torment the Israelites. These other groups would do things like destroy the plants and crops the Israelites used for food. If the Israelites had corn planted in a field, the Midianites would cut it all down or burn it. If the Israelites had cattle, like cows or sheep, the Amalekites would come in and kill all the animals. They would pick fights with the Israelites and hurt or kill their people. One group after another would ruin whatever the Israelites had, and there were so many people doing this, the Israelites weren't able to fight back. Finally, the Israelites couldn't take it anymore and they cried out to God, "God, please help us!"



God Sends an Angel to Gideon

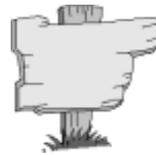
God replied to the people, (*paraphrased*) "I am the Lord your God. I have told you not to worship idols, but you wouldn't listen. Now you are asking me for help." So, God sent an angel down to talk with a man named Gideon. (*Show Gideon with Angel*)

Gideon was an ordinary man. He didn't have any super powers: he didn't have super strength or super hearing. But, he was one of the few people who still believed in and worshipped God. The angel told Gideon, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior...Go in the strength you have and save Israel from Midian."

Gideon couldn't believe what he was hearing! He asked the angel, "How can I save Israel? My group is the weakest group there is, and I am the weakest member of my family. How can I defeat the Midianites?"

God told Gideon that He would be with him and that together they would defeat the Midianites. Before this could happen though, God asked Gideon to do one thing: God disliked the idols the Israelites were worshipping, so God told Gideon to tear down the altar (*the large area made of stones where the idols were kept and worshipped*) of the idols. Gideon wanted to obey God, so he agreed to tear down the altar. However, Gideon was also afraid of the other Israelite people and how they would react if they found out he was the one who had destroyed their altar made for the idols. So, Gideon went to the altar at night, hoping no one would see him, and he did as God had asked and destroyed it.

The next morning the Israelites saw the ruined altar and began asking who had been responsible for its destruction. When the people began to look for clues as to who had done it, they figured out it was Gideon. Not only were the people upset and angry about the destruction of their altar, but they wanted to put Gideon to death for doing it! Gideon's father, Joash, spoke up and said that if Baal was really a god, (*Baal was the name of the idol the Israelites were worshipping*) then Baal could take care of whoever ruined his altar. You see, Joash also believed in the one true God, and knew that Baal wouldn't be able to harm his son. Finally, the people agreed to let Baal take care of Gideon, and so Gideon was not killed.



God Gives Gideon a Sign

Now, it wasn't long after this that the Midianites, the Amalekites and several other groups once again started heading in the direction where the Israelites were living. The groups were getting ready to attack again. Gideon began to feel that it was time for him to gather his own armies together and fight back, but he was very nervous about doing this. Gideon wanted to make sure God would be with him in this battle, because if God wasn't with him, he knew there was no way he and his army could defeat the others in battle. So, Gideon asked God for a sign.

We talked about signs earlier in our object lesson, and saw how signs can be helpful about what is ahead on the road. Gideon was asking for something similar from God. He didn't ask for an actual road sign, but he did ask God to do something that seemed impossible, and if God would do it, then Gideon would know that he could win the fight against the Midianites.

Gideon told God he would lay a fleece on the ground, (*the woolly hair from a sheep*) and if there was dew on the fleece (*water from the air*) but the ground all around the fleece was dry, then that would be a sign. It would be a sign that God was with Gideon and that he would be able to defeat the Midianites. So, one night Gideon put the woolly fleece on the floor. Sure enough, when he woke up the next morning, the fleece was soaking wet, but the ground all around the fleece was dry.

But Gideon still wasn't completely convinced. So, he asked God to give him just one more sign. "This time," Gideon said, "let the fleece be dry and the ground all around it be wet." And again, Gideon woke up the next morning and the ground all around the fleece was soaking wet, but the fleece was completely dry.

God Decreases the Armies' Number

Now Gideon knew for sure that the Midianites were in trouble! God was going to defeat them. Gideon had called together a huge army of men to fight, about 32,000 men. Gideon was feeling pretty confident at this point. Then, God told Gideon he had too many men. I can just imagine Gideon saying, "What? Are you crazy? How can I have too many men?" But that's exactly what God said. You see, God wanted the Israelites to know that if the Midianites were defeated it was because of *God* and *His* power, not because of the people.

To help solve this problem, God told Gideon to tell the men that anyone who was afraid to fight could leave. So, about 22,000 men left. That's a lot of scared men! But it still wasn't enough for God. He wanted the numbers down even more. This time, God told Gideon to take the men down to the river, and allow them to drink. He said anyone who gets down on his knees to lick up the water with their tongues should not fight, but all of those who pick up the water with their hands and then bring it to their mouths could stay. Of the 10,000 men who were left, only 300 picked up the water with their hands. So, Gideon's huge army of 32,000 men was now down to just 300!



Gideon Defeats the Midianites

Don't you think Gideon had to be feeling a little nervous now? He started out with 32,000 men and now he only had 300. He must have been wondering if God really knew what he was doing. But, he trusted God. Gideon and his 300 men surrounded the camp where the Midianites were staying and they began to attack. God caused the men in the Midianite army to become confused and they started to attack each other. The others in the army ran away, and Gideon, with the help of 300 men, and one very powerful God, defeated the Midianites that day.

Application

Gideon was a hero, but not because he had super powers. He didn't have super speed or super strength and he couldn't fly. The Bible said he was the weakest member in his family. He was an ordinary person, just like you or me. Not exactly the kind of person we think of when we think of a hero, is it? You see, Gideon wasn't a hero until God came into the picture. God's power and God's strength helped turn Gideon *into* a hero. Gideon became a hero because he was willing to trust and obey God, and allow God to work through him. That's how he was able to defeat the Midianites—not because of what he could do on his own, but because of what he could do with God's help.

We don't have to be the smartest person, or the best looking, or the most popular in order for God to use us. God calls regular people to be heroes. Just like in our puppet skit, the boys couldn't do the kinds of things Super Dude could do, but they could still find ways to have fun, while they were being themselves.

That's all we have to be for God. He can use us no matter who we are, or the abilities we have. He just wants us to be open to the things He can do *through* us. We can do anything with God's help. Any one of us in this room can become a hero. Any one of us can make a difference wherever we are, whether it's at school, at church, or at home. All we need to do is depend on (or trust in) God. He'll give us the strength to do the things we don't think we can do.

Questions for Reflection

1. What words come to mind when you think of a hero?
2. How do you think God would describe a hero?
3. Have you ever had the chance to be a hero?
4. When was a time you had to trust God for something you didn't think you could do?



Prayer

Ask the children if they have anything you can pray for, and then include those things in your prayer time. Then pray:

God, we want to thank you for the lesson we learned about heroes from Gideon today. Thank you that you can use us to do big things, even at times when we feel very weak or small. Help each boy and girl here today to remember that you are always with them, and that you love them very much. In Jesus name, Amen.



Memory Verse: Philippians 4:13

(10 minutes)

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13
(NIV)

Props: Overhead with today's verse on it. (Included)

Teacher: Today we've been talking about getting our strength from God, so today our Bible verse goes right along with that theme. To help us out, I asked our new friend, Super Dude, to come and introduce the verse for us today.

(Super Dude enters)

Super Dude: Hi kids!

Teacher: So what did you think of our Bible story today, Super Dude?

SD: It was a good one, but I felt sorry for that guy...what was his name again?

Teacher: *(speaking to the kids)* What was the man's name in our story today? *(kids yell out Gideon)*

SD: Yeah, that's right, Gideon.

Teacher: Why did you feel sorry for him? Was it because he felt weak and didn't think he could do what God asked of him?

SD: No, it was because he had fleas.

Teacher: He didn't have fleas!

SD: Yes he did. You said he was going to put out his fleas and see whether or not they got wet.

Teacher: I didn't say "fleas," I said "fleece." You know, the wool from a sheep?

SD: Oooh, that makes more sense. But now I feel sorry for the sheep.

Teacher: The sheep? Why do you feel sorry for them?

SD: Because they had to stand outside that night and get all wet!

Teacher: No Super Dude, the wool is cut off the sheep first. It doesn't hurt them. It's like getting a hair cut.

SD: I see. But I still feel sorry for the sheep.

Teacher: Why do you still feel sorry for the sheep?

SD: Because without all their wool, I bet they were cold!

Teacher: The sheep were fine Super Dude. Let's get on to our Bible verse for today. Can you read it for us? (*Show the overhead with the verse on it*)

SD: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

Teacher: Very good. Now, what do you think that verse means?

SD: That's easy, it means that I can do whatever I want because I'm super strong! See my muscles? (*he attempts to "flex" his arm muscles*)

Teacher: I don't think that's what this verse is saying, Super Dude. Not everyone has super strength like you.

SD: Then what does it mean then?

Teacher: (*to the kids*) What do you think it means? (*allow the kids to give answers*) That's right, I don't think this verse means *physical* strength, like being able to pick up a building like Super Dude, here.

SD: What other kind of strength is there?

Teacher: I think the kind of strength God is talking about is inner strength.

SD: What's that?

Teacher: In a way it means being brave, or having the courage to do something.

SD: I have no idea what you're talking about.

Teacher: All right, let me explain it this way. Let's say there is a big hairy spider in the room.

SD: *(freaks out)* Spider? Where? *(screams and hops around looking for it)*

Teacher: Calm down Super Dude, there isn't really a spider, we're just pretending.

SD: *(in a whimpering voice)* I don't like spiders.

Teacher: Okay, this is exactly the kind of thing I'm talking about. Just *pretend* there is a spider in your room and you have to kill it, but you're afraid of spiders. What do you do?

SD: I call for my mommy!

Teacher: What if there's no one else around?

SD: I panic!

Teacher: But you don't have to Super Dude. This is what the verse means. Whenever we feel like we can't do something all on our own, God gives us the inner strength to be able to do it. Even though you don't think you could kill that spider, you could pray and ask God to help you, and he'll give you the inner strength to help you do it.

SD: Does that really work?

Teacher: It always worked for me.

SD: That's pretty neat.

Teacher: Yep. So the next time you're afraid, or nervous about something, all you have to do is say to yourself...

SD: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

Teacher: That's right.

SD: Do you think the kids could say it now?

Teacher: I bet they can. What do you think kids?

(Have them say it several times. If you want to get them up and moving a bit, have one side of the room stand and say it, then the next side.)

SD: I bet I can say it louder than they can. After all, I do have super lungs!

Teacher: Okay kids, let's see if you can it louder than Super Dude. *(Do this as much as time allows. Then back to Super Dude)* Thanks for helping us out today Super Dude.

SD: Any time.

(End)



Activity: Battle of the Super Heroes

(10-15 minutes)

Objective: Teams give their super heroes strength by answering review questions about the lesson and memory verse. Teams see if their heroes are strong enough to knock down a “building.”

Materials: For each team, you will need:

a stack of heavy, hard-cover books (8-10)	a feather
a straw	a pen
a paper towel roll	a 6 inch ruler
a bat	
set of all 6 super heroes (see Resource pictures)	
review questions (included)	
chair	
dry erase board (or poster board) & marker	

Preparation:

For each team, arrange the books in a stack, to simulate a “building.” The books should be heavy, and the stack should be fairly tall. Make a copy of the set of 6 super heroes for each team (see Resource pictures). The teams will start out with super hero #1, and progressively work their way up to #6. The teams also start out with a “super weapon,” (the feather”) and work their way up to the bat.

Procedure:

Divide the group into teams. To begin, give each team super hero #1 and a super weapon, the feather. These items can be sitting on the floor in front of each team, or on the table in front of the stack of books.

Explain that just like in the story today, the super heroes are going to be depending on each team to give them their super strength. The heroes start out fairly weak, but will get progressively stronger. In order to give their heroes strength, the teams must compete to correctly answer questions about the lesson and the memory verse. (see *below*) For every 5 questions answered correctly by the team, the hero will get stronger. As the hero gets stronger, he also gets a new weapon (straws, pens etc.) to use to try and knock down the building (the stack of books.) Teams are successful when they have worked their way up to hero #6, and can use their super weapon (the bat) to knock down the building (books).

To begin, a chair is placed in front of each team. Other team members line up behind the chair. The first person in line tries to knock down the stack of books using only their feather. Of course, this won't happen since the feather isn't strong enough to knock down the books. So, the teacher will begin to ask the teams a question.

The first person in each line sits in the chair. The teacher asks a question, and the first person to stand up, gets to answer the question. If he/she is correct, that team gets a point. If he/she is wrong, another team gets to answer and earn a point. Those people then go to the end of the line, and the next person in each line sits in the chair. This process continues until one team has correctly answered 5 questions in a row, earning five points. That team is then given super hero #2, and the corresponding weapon. (See below) Once the team gets a new weapon, one volunteer has the chance to try to knock down the books with it. This should be impossible until the very last weapon, the bat. (Make sure the books are heavy enough to accomplish that).

Once the team has earned their final super hero and bat, one volunteer has the chance to knock down their building. The first team to accomplish this, wins. The other team(s) could continue until they have earned super hero #6 and the bat, and knocked down their building as well.

Order of heroes & weapons

- Super hero #1---feather
- Super hero #2—straw
- Super hero #3—pen
- Super hero #4—paper towel roll
- Super hero #5—6 inch ruler
- Super hero #6--bat

Optional:

Using each super hero figure, use a piece of string or yarn to create a necklace. The person who volunteers to try to knock down the building can wear the necklace. The same could be done using a long strip of paper to create a headband.

Review Questions

1. What is the purpose of a road sign? (To tell us what is ahead)
2. Name 2 signs used in our object lesson today. ("for sale," "stop," "danger," "curvy road," "picnic table," "gas," "no bicycles")
3. What can happen if you don't obey a road sign? (someone could get hurt)
4. Who was the main character in our story today? What was his name? (Gideon)
5. What group of people was Gideon a part of? (Israelites)
6. How did the Israelites disobey God? (worshipped idols)
7. From what you were shown today, what animal shape was the idol in? (bull)
8. What were idols made out of? (anything—gold, metal, wood etc.)
9. Why can't idols help us? (they aren't real, they are an object like a table or chair)
10. According to our story, name one way the Midianites and the Amalekites bothered the Israelites. (destroyed the crops, killed the animals, picked fights or killed the Israelite people)
11. Name another way the Israelites were bothered or tormented. (same as previous)
12. Who did God send to talk to Gideon? (angel)
13. What did the angel tell Gideon? (The Lord is with you, and with God's help you can defeat the Midianites)
14. How did Gideon respond when he heard that he was supposed to defeat the Midianites? (he didn't believe it, he said he was the weakest member of his family etc)
15. What did God ask Gideon to do for him before they began to fight the other armies? (tear down the altar where Baal was worshipped)
16. What time of day did Gideon tear the altar down? (night)
17. What did the people want to do to Gideon when they found out he was the one who tore down the altar? (have him killed)
18. Why wasn't Gideon killed? (because his father, Joash, said to let Baal deal with it & since Baal wasn't real, Gideon wasn't harmed)
19. What was the first sign Gideon asked God for? (the fleece would be dry and the ground wet)
20. What was the second sign Gideon asked for? (the ground be dry and the fleece wet)
21. What is a "fleece?" (the wool from a sheep)
22. Why did God tell Gideon that his army was too big? (because God wanted to prove that Gideon and his men won the battle because of His power, not the men's)
23. What was the first way Gideon's army was narrowed down? (everyone who was afraid to fight could leave)
24. What was the second way Gideon's army was narrowed? (the army went to the river and whoever licked it up like a dog was asked to leave)
25. How many men were left to fight in Gideon's army? (300)

26. What did God do to the other armies that helped Gideon's army win the battle? (God made the other armies confused and they started attacking each other)

27. According to our lesson, why was Gideon a hero? (Because he trusted and obeyed God, and allowed God to work through him)

True or False:

28. We have to be smart in order for God to use us. (false)

29. God wants us to be perfect before he will use us. (false)

30. God wants us to trust Him. (true)

31. Our memory verse for today says, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (true)