



God can use anyone | 10-16-24

### LARGE GROUP GAME: Donut Duel

A person from each grade/gender will be selected (3 girls vs. 3 boys). Relay style, each team will have to eat their donuts with their hands behind their back. The first team to get to the last donut wins.

*Our number one goal tonight is for your group to decide what you will be doing (crafts/games) for the Harvard Park Fall Festival on October 30<sup>th</sup>.*

Then, we'll play a quick video recap about Gideon, who we'll be talking about tonight.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3CDZjpkDKU>

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (45 minutes)

#### Unlikely heroes

To start your time together, have student share their answers to this question:

1. Who is someone you think is underrated (athlete, singer, streamer, etc)?

On Sunday, we looked at the story of Ehud in Judges 3. Ehud was a part of the Tribe of Benjamin, whose people were regarded as "lesser" than others. Ehud was also left-handed, which was seen as a handicap; however, God still used Ehud to deliver his people from oppression for the next 80 years!

A few chapters later, in Judges 6, we meet a guy named Gideon. Gideon is another example of how God can use anyone. At this time, Gideon's people were under the control of the Midianites. An angel visits Gideon and says to him, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior...Go in the strength you have and save Israel..." Gideon's reply? "Pardon me, my lord, but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest, and I am the least in my family."

As a group, read Judges 7:9-21 (see back of page).

1. Gideon didn't think he could save Israel. He doubted himself because of his family and age. When was a time you doubted yourself or your ability to accomplish something?
  - a. Did you ever overcome those doubts? How so? What was the outcome?
2. Think about how God created you. What has He equipped you with? What makes you unique? How can you use that to bring people closer to Jesus?

#### Harvard Park

In two Wednesdays (10/30), we will go to Harvard Park Elementary School to help with their Fall Festival. The students at this school often times get overlooked but God can use them to do great things, too! We want to help make this a fun night for our friends at Harvard Park. We're hoping each group will lead one or two crafts/games for the kids that night.

1. Brainstorm possible ideas for games or crafts. Thinking back to the last question, is there any way to use the things God has uniquely given you or gifted you with to help?
2. Choose one or two of your ideas. Once you've decided on your games or crafts, come up with a list of supplies that you will need for them.
3. Once you confirm your plans, post in our leader GroupMe what games or crafts you decide on (to make sure no one duplicates).

### HIGH/LOW/GOD THING (15 minutes)

Depending on group size, you might split into even smaller (shepherding) groups for this. Have each student go around and identify a highlight of their week, a low point from their week and where they have seen God show up in their week. This time is to help them see God around them, to celebrate when something goes well and for them to be supported when they have had a rough week. If you're short on time, let them choose one of those three to share.

#### PRAY

Encourage one student to pray for the group, specifically that each student would know that they are seen and never overlooked by God or at JHM.

#### **JUDGES 7:9-21**

*Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. <sup>9</sup> During that night the Lord said to Gideon, "Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. <sup>10</sup> If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah <sup>11</sup> and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp." So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp.*

*<sup>13</sup> Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed."*

*<sup>14</sup> His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands."*

*<sup>15</sup> When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands." <sup>16</sup> Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.*

*<sup>17</sup> "Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. <sup>18</sup> When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon.'"*

*<sup>19</sup> Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. <sup>20</sup> The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" <sup>21</sup> While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.*