

## 4.21 Gideon: Everyone is Important

Topic: Peace in a Nation

Subtopic: Everyone is important  
3C- Equality & Value of each individual

Class: Standard IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will know that every person deserves to be treated with respect.

**Attitude:** Students would value themselves and others because God loves each person.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk  
Exercise book  
Peace Circles Chart

References: Judges 6 & 7  
*Peace Education* Lesson 6

Memory Verse: Matthew 22: 37, 39

### Teacher Activities

**Introduction:** *Peace Education* Lesson 6 – Belonging. Ask if it was hard to find something similar or not. Point out that everyone is unique but we have some ways we are the same, also.

**Bible Story:** Review the Peace Circles. Introduce the story of Gideon. Have students perform the skit. Discuss the story.

Give examples of other people who might not have seemed important to others but they did important things for God.

*Examples:*

- Gideon was the youngest in his family
- Moses was a shepherd
- Deborah was a woman but she became a judge

**Application:** (1) Ask students to give examples from the stories of Jesus.

(2) Ask if they ever feel like they are unimportant. Remind them that they are loved and important to Jesus.

(3) Ask who sometimes gets overlooked or disrespected your community.

(4) Ask how Jesus would want us to treat these people.

**Evaluation:** Do you see students treating everyone with respect? Do you model this by showing respect for your students?

### Student Activities

**Introduction** – Students get in small groups and have to find something they all have in common (not physical attributes).

**Bible Story:** Students read the skit about Gideon.  
Answer questions about the story.

**Application:** (1) Think of examples of people that seemed unimportant to others but Jesus treated them with respect. *Examples:*

- Children
- Fishermen
- Blind men
- Samaritan woman
- Tax collectors

(2) Share times when they have been treated like they are unimportant.

(3) *Answers may vary.* Possible answers might be people with disabilities, the elderly or young children, people in certain kinds of jobs or people who are homeless.

(4) Jesus tells us to show everyone His love.

**Evaluation:** Use the discussion or the writing assignment or the roleplays from the Extension Activities to evaluate if students understand that each person is valuable and should be treated with respect.

**Extension Activities:** *Memory Verse:* Have the students write the verses in their journal. According to Jesus, what is the most important commandment? (Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with your entire mind.) Why do you think Jesus said this commandment is more important than the second one? (We must put obeying God above everything else if we are going to be friends of God. If we put people first, we will end up trying to please people and doing things that don't please God.) What was the second commandment? (Love your neighbor as yourself.) Who do you think is your neighbor?

*Writing Assignment.* Jesus used the story of the Good Samaritan to explain who our neighbor is. Who would the Good Samaritan be if Jesus were telling the story today? Think about who is disrespected and looked down on today. Ask students for ideas for each of the characters in the story and how Jesus might tell the story today. Rewrite the Good Samaritan story in a modern day setting. For example, instead of a priest it might be a pastor, minister, teacher or someone else who is respected and might be expected to help. You may have students do this in small groups or as a class.

*Demonstrations.* Choose two students to role-play a situation where they show the RIGHT way to treat:

- A baby,
- An older person,
- Someone with a disability,
- A younger sibling
- A friend that disagrees with them about something
- Someone who teases them.

*You are important to God.* Psalms 139. Turn to Psalms 139 and read (or have students read) verses 13-16. Discuss this passage using the questions below:

- Give examples of how are we “fearfully and wonderfully made”?
- What six phrases in Psalms 139: 13-16 tell you that God knows you before you are born?
- According to these verses, how does God feel about you?
- If God made us, He knows us, and He is thinking about you all the time, what difference does that make to you?
- King David wrote this Psalm. His response was to praise God for making him so wonderfully and for thinking about him so much.
- Let's take a minute for silent prayer and you can thank God for making you and loving you. (If the children are comfortable praying out loud you can invite them to say a sentence prayer if they would like.)

### Notes for Teacher

If students understand that every person is valuable to God and should be treated with respect, they will value themselves and others. When we value others we will try not to take advantage of someone else or hurt them. When we treat others with respect we help to stop conflicts before they start.

Key Points: Students would know that every person is important in the eyes of God. Students would know that God can use people whom the world might think are unimportant.

Introduction: Use the activities in Lesson 6 of *Peace Education* book to introduce the idea of similarities and differences. Students get into groups of four and have to find something they all have in common (not physical attributes) and then two groups of four combine so you have groups of eight and again find something they all have in common. Have groups share how they are similar. Ask if it was hard to find something similar or not. Point out that everyone is unique and has ways he or she is different but we have some ways we are the same, also. We tend to exclude people when we focus on differences but become more inclusive when we focus on similarities. Today we will see how even someone who others thought was unimportant could do something important for God.

Bible Story: *Peace Circle.* Point to the Peace Circles chart. Ask what the stories were about in the last unit. The lessons were about peace in a community. Point out that in the last unit Moses brought the Israelites to the Promised Land and Joshua led them in conquering and settling in this land. We learned how Moses established a kind of government with men to help him settle disputes and rules or laws to guide behavior.

*Introduce new unit.* Explain that the stories in this unit will be about Peace in a Nation. Once the Israelites were settled in the new land, they had judges who ruled over the new nation of Israel. Our story today starts after they have already settled in the land. Joshua had died at an old age and for a while the people of Israel served the Lord and did what He had commanded. After a while they forgot how God had delivered them from their enemies and they forgot His commandments. They began to worship other gods and do things God had told them not to do. Remind students that the Ten Commandments are like a fence but when we stop obeying God we step outside His protection. Enemies of Israel, the Midianites, began to make raids on the Israelites. They would steal all their animals or burn their crops or destroy their houses and then they would run away and leave the Israelites without any way to feed themselves. Our story today is about a man named Gideon. Most people thought he wasn't very important because he came from an unimportant family in one of the less important tribes.

*Bible Story.* Have four students read the skit (at the end of the lesson) and then discuss the story.

- What did Gideon think when the angel called him a mighty warrior? (He didn't think he was a warrior. He wasn't sure if this was an angel or not.)
- Have you ever felt unimportant like Gideon did?
- How did the angel prove to Gideon that he was from God? (Fire burned up the food as a sacrifice.)
- Later, when God told Gideon to fight the Midianites, he only let him take 300 soldiers. What did they use for weapons? (pitchers and trumpets)
- Why do you suppose God had them do it this way instead of having a lot of men and good weapons? (God wanted them to know it was God who won this battle—not people or strong weapons.)

Application:

Discuss examples of how Jesus treated people with respect even when others did not value them. Ask if students ever feel unimportant or disrespected. Remind them that God called Gideon a Mighty Warrior. God saw in Gideon what he was going to become. God sees in you what He created you to be—a valuable person, important in the eyes of God. He sees the good in every person and wants us to treat each person with respect, even those who are different from us. Ask who is some times treated with disrespect in your community.

***Gideon Skit*** (Written by Vicki Sawyer, Iowa, USA) Note to teacher: You will need 4 people to do this skit--Gideon, Angel, Lord, Narrator.

NARRATOR: Now Israel lived in days when the Midianites ruled the land. They would come and steal Israel's grain and livestock. So Israel was very low and it came about that they cried out to the Lord and He answered them. One day the angel of the Lord came to a young man named Gideon.

ANGEL to Gideon: The Lord is with you O mighty warrior.

GIDEON: Who are you and what do you want with me?

ANGEL: The Lord wants you to go and deliver Israel from the Midianites.

GIDEON: Who me? Do you know who I am? I am the youngest in my family. I have never been in a war and you can see that I'm not a warrior. Besides the Lord hasn't done much for us lately. You can see the state we are in!

LORD: Gideon, **I** have sent you and **I** will be with you. Now go and deliver my people from their enemies.

GIDEON: I don't mean to doubt you, Lord, but are you sure you know who I am and what you are asking me to do? Let me prepare an offering and think about this.

NARRATOR: So Gideon prepared an offering and presented it to the Lord. He laid meat and bread on a rock and fire from God came and consumed it.

GIDEON: Okay, so you are the Lord. I believe. (The angel vanished) Wait a minute, where are you going? What am I supposed to do now?

NARRATOR: Now the Lord spoke again to Gideon in the night and said, "Rise up, Gideon and deliver my people!"

GIDEON: Lord, I have to be sure. I don't mean to test you, but would you send me some proof? If I lay a fleece of wool on the grass, in the morning would you make the fleece dry and the grass wet?

NARRATOR: So Gideon laid out the fleece, went to bed, and in the morning the fleece was dry and the grass wet.

LORD: So, Gideon, do you believe me? Go and deliver My people.

GIDEON: Don't be mad God, but could you just give me one more sign? This time make the fleece wet and the grass dry.

NARRATOR: And so God did this for Gideon.

GIDEON: OK, Lord, I'll do whatever you say. I'll gather all the men of war and tell them what we are to do. You do know, Lord, that there are a lot more of them than us.

NARRATOR: So Gideon gathered all the men of war together and presented them to the Lord.

LORD: What is this Gideon? You have way too many warriors. Here is what I want you to do. First send home all who are afraid to fight.

NARRATOR: 22,000 men left but 10,000 remained.

LORD: Gideon, you still have too many men.

GIDEON: But, Lord....

LORD: Have the men gather at the pool and separate those who lap water from their hands and keep a watchful eye while they drink from those who get down on their both knees to lap the water leaving themselves unprotected. The ones who use their hands, will go with you.

GIDEON: Are you kidding, Lord? Only 300 men used their hands to drink. Three hundred against thousands? Are you sure you know what you are doing?

LORD: Yes, Gideon. Remember **I** will be with you. Now for weapons, you are to take trumpets and empty pitchers with torches inside them.

GIDEON: Did I hear you right, Lord? Trumpets and pitchers? What kind of weapons are trumpets and pitchers? You are kidding, right?

LORD: Hear me Gideon. This is what you are to do. At night, surround the camp of the Midianites on three sides and when you come to the edge of the camp you will blow the trumpet and say "For the Lord and for Gideon". When everyone hears this, they will blow their trumpets, smash their pitchers and hold up their torches.

GIDEON: I will do what you say, Lord. You did say You would be with us, right?

LORD: Yes, Gideon, **I** will be with you and **I** will defeat the Midianites right before your eyes.

NARRATOR: So Gideon and his 300 men did as the Lord said and blew their trumpets, broke their pitchers and lifted their torches and ran into the camp of the Midianites. The Midianites were so frightened and confused that they turned against each other and fled from the land of Israel.

GIDEON: Lord, I guess you know what You are doing. I will listen and obey you from this day on. Thank you for delivering us. You are a Mighty God.