



SERVICE ORDER

WEEK 1: No Doubt About It

NOTES: Print out Series Summary and hand a copy to each SG leader. Meet with SG leaders before the service and go over the big themes of the series, how to discipline, tickets/candy, offering.

GAME TIME:

- **(A/V)** Have an upbeat song ready to go
- "Stealing Home": See game for supply list

TUNE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect real song set)

- Song 1
- Song 2
- Song 3

REMIND TIME:

- **(A/V)** Play Remind Time video
- **(A/V)** Display the Trait-N-Tagline Powerpoint
- Go over TRUST – I can count on God to be there for me.

TEACH TIME:

- **(A/V)** Bring up first Powerpoint on screen
- **Engage Them:** Talking about things we fear and why
- **Teach Them:** About the story of Gideon and how he kept doubting God
- **Challenge Them:** Powerpoints for Take-Away, Spotlight verse

GIVE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect whatever campaign you're working on)

- Ex. Malaria nets in Africa
- **(A/V)** Bring up goal Powerpoint on screen

CLOSE TIME:

- Announcements, up-coming events, hand out flyers
- Ticket Drawing
- Closing Song: ??
- Keep Groups together: Do Relate Time Sheets until parents com

EXIT: Distribute Parent Take-Away card directly to parents

TEACH them

2nd Segment: (15 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

*The intent with this section is to **tell the Bible story** in a compelling, animated, and interesting way. A good communicator uses the following script only as a guideline to speak, but never reading from it, as children can lose interest. Make the story come alive with voice inflections, funny anecdotes and noises, and passionate emotion. We intentionally give great latitude for the speaker to make it 'their own', using props, involving kids...whatever you can do to help the kids remember the Bible lesson.*

BIBLE text

Judges 6:1-24 – Gideon Doubts

PROPS n things

- None

BEGIN speaking

Okay...so we doubt sometimes. Okay...so we are unsure of ourselves sometimes. The question is...what are you going to do about it?

After taking in all the information....after seeing that there's no reason to doubt, no reason to be gripped by fear....is it still okay to stay on the sidelines? What if God is clearly calling you to do something and your fear or doubt is keeping you from obeying God?

Let's take a look at a couple of quotes from some really wise people:

Show slide ("Quote 1")

Quote: "Any belief worth having must survive doubt."

Isn't that so true?! Any sports championship must survive pain and disappointment along the way. If you were to quit whenever you had a setback, you'd never experience victory. It's the same way with believing....the road to truth sometimes involves a little doubt along the way. But if you stayed at the point of doubting, you'd never experience believing.

Show slide ("Quote 2")

Here's another quote:

Quote: "Doubt is the beginning, not the end of wisdom."

What this quote is saying kids, is that when you starting questioning things more, it means you are really caring about the truth and what you really should believe in. It's the beginning of wisdom....it's the beginning of moving out from under your parent's faith and experiencing faith on your own. It's okay to have doubts...it's just not okay to stay there.

Show slide ("Judges 6:1-24")

And that's what we see in our Bible story today.

All month long, we're going to learn about Gideon. Now for those of you who've gone to church for a while, you might know the story of Gideon. Most of us have heard about how he wiped out a huge, powerful army with just a few hundred men. We're going to talk about that in a couple of weeks, but many of you may not have heard how it came to be that God chose Gideon to lead the Israelite army against the huge, powerful army of the Midianites.

SO, let's back up a bit to Judges, chapter 6, starting in verse 1. In order to understand where Gideon fits in the story, we have to find out what was happening with the Israelites first.

(Read (or have kids read) verses 1:10)

The Bible says that the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

And so God allow the Midianites, who were these really tough people, to come through where the Israelites lived. They took all their food, and chased them out of their homes. They were not very nice, and they did this all the time.

When the Israelites cried out, the Lord sent a prophet who reminded them of how the Lord brought them up out of Egypt and slavery. He reminded them of the Lord's command to "not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live." But the Israelites did not listen to God and so God was allowing them to be pushed around by the Midianites.

God needed a leader for the Israelites, and so he sent an angel to a guy, named Gideon. Now Gideon was nothing special. He was the son of a guy named Joash. He was short and not particularly strong. He was just a regular guy, minding his own business.

But the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

Gideon looks over his shoulder to see if the angel is talking to someone behind him. Gideon is like, "Who me? You must have me mixed up with someone else." *(start to laugh hysterically and then suddenly stop laughing and get a fearful, confused look on your face).*

Gideon, as it turns out, was a world-class, professional doubter. I mean, he was Chicken Little....asking questions and making excuses left and right.

"But sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?" Well, that's a fair question if the Israelites weren't disobeying God by worshiping other gods. Listen kids...God is a fair God...more than fair. But He can't reward us when we disobey. That would be like you disobeying your parents and because of it, they celebrated by taking you out for ice cream. It's just not going to happen.

But God did hear the cry of His people, and that is why He wanted Gideon to lead the army.

In verse 14, the Lord said, **"Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"**

But here goes Doubting Gideon again....

"But Lord, how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." Gideon is like, "Ah Lord...have you looked at this body? I'm not *(fingers in quotes)* 'leadership' material. I'm just a little dude. My right big toe is longer than my left big toe, and I have this annoying mole on my left shoulder and my left eye twitches when I get nervous." *(twitch your left eye)*

Boy, Gideon just doesn't get it, does he? He's acting like he's the one in control. Remember Moses did that with God on the mountain with the burning bush, "Ah God, I can't speak very well, I can't do this, and I can't do that." But when God makes up His mind to use us, we don't really have much of a choice but to trust and obey.

So the Lord reminds Gideon, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

End of story right? Gideon's doubt is gone, right? Nope. 'Ol Chicken Little Gideon has to open his mouth again, exposing all his fear and doubt. "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me." Man! I think if God could roll His eyes, He'd be rolling His eyes at this little man.

Poor doubting Gideon; poor Chicken Little. I don't know about you, but I sure don't want to be a doubter of God when He asks me to do something important for him. Instead, when He asks me to do something....even if it's hard or dangerous, or seemingly impossible....I want to be the one that says, "No Doubt About It! With God's help, we will do it!"

Trust is like a muscle...we have to work it out to make it stronger. Have you ever had a broken arm or leg and had to have a cast put on? No fun! And then after several weeks, the doctor takes the cast off and all you have is this little tiny, flabby, good-for-nothing muscle. Why? Because you haven't used it; you haven't worked it out.

Kids, we have to work out our trust muscle and our faith muscle by listening and obeying God. Don't let your fears and your doubts get in the way of following God. He will guide you along the path and will always be with you. Your job is just to listen, to trust and follow through with what He's asking you to do. Okay?

EVALUATE their understanding

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 2 - EVALUATE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.

(While small groups are going, use this time to check your notes, reset your props, and walk around to some of the groups and listen to how it's going.)

CHALLENGE them

3rd Segment: (5 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **encourage and challenge the kids** to take a spiritual step forward this week. We want them to stop and think, make better choices, form new habits and bring God into their everyday world. This is a great time to speak from your heart and then pray for them.

BEGIN speaking

Kids, as you get older, you'll have more questions about God, who He is and how He fits into your everyday world, and most importantly....how you fit into His plans for mankind.

It's okay to doubt God sometimes, but don't stay there. Ask questions about God for the purpose of knowing Him better. Usually when we doubt God, it's because we still need to understand who He really is.

Remember....**doubt is the beginning, not the end, of wisdom.** When you start asking good questions about God, it means that your faith is really coming alive! And ALL the things that you've been taught are now becoming real and more important to you.

Show slide ("Take-Away Point")

Let's remember our Take-Away Point today: "God has never given us a reason to doubt Him". Let's say together. *(repeat the Take-Away Point together)*. Awesome job!

I pray that God will show where to find your answers in the Bible. The Bible is God's guidebook to life.

Let's pray.

Show slide ("Take-Away Point")

Our Action Hero, Trustina, reminds us in our Take-Away Point that: **"God has never given us a reason to doubt Him."** Let's say together. *(Repeat the Take-Away Point together)*. As we have talked about, Trustina wears eye glasses because she's blind. I'm sure Trustina has doubts her safety whenever she crosses the street, I'm sure she doubts that she can get from her home to work. Trustina needs the help of others, and she needs certain tools to get around. But have you ever thought about the advantages of being blind? There's a lot of bad things to see in this world. Being blind means that you don't struggle with having to see something to believe; you just have

faith that it's there. Trustina doesn't struggle with fear and doubt, because she knows that the people around her love her and will care for her. They don't feel sorry for her; it's out of love for her that causes them to lend a hand.

That's the way it is with God. He knows that we are all blind; blind to the truth, blind to what is right and what is wrong, and blind to many other things. We just don't see it... we just don't get it. Well, God doesn't leave just sitting there with no ability to see. As our faith and trust in Him grows, He shows us new things that we missed before. He gives us wisdom to make good decisions. Without God in our lives, we are all blind. But with Him, we are able to see things, see the world, and see people in a whole new and fresh way.

Show slide ("Spotlight Verse")

Say the Spotlight Verse with me: **"We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love."** 1 John 4:16 (NLT)

Let's Pray: "Dear God, sometimes we doubt things, we doubt ourselves and we doubt You. Sometimes we forget that we were created in your image, and we were made to love You and to serve You Only. God, I pray for each of these kids that they would grow up to know You is a very cool way. Help them to see that they are nothing and can do nothing apart from You. All of our power, all of our strength, and all of our love comes from You. You get the victory for the success in our lives. As we learn about Gideon this month, show us what are to learn through his story of changing from doubt to trust. It's in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen."

Great job! Have an amazing week trusting God for all things!

ENCOURAGE their walk

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 3 - ENCOURAGE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.



WEEK 1: No Doubt About It

EXPLORE – their opinion

(Hand out beans to everyone in the group) Let's play a "True or False" game. I'm going to make a statement, and you toss a bean in the middle whenever you think it's false; not true. Okay? Ready?

- A giraffe is able to clean its ears with its own tongue
- A group of crows is called a murder
- Every three days, your stomach gets a new lining
- Most lipstick contains fish scales
- No piece of paper can be folded more than 7 times
- An armadillo can walk under water
- ALL STATEMENTS ARE TRUE!

When we say, "I doubt it," it's often because we've never seen it done before, or it's just too hard to for us to believe? Can you think of a time when you doubted something or someone?

EVALUATE – their understanding

Answer TRUE or FALSE to the following:

- The Israelites did good in the eyes of the Lord (false—they did 'evil' in His eyes)
- The Israelites had to live in mountain clefts and caves (true)
- The Amalekites invaded the country and ruined all the crops (true)
- The Israelites praised God even though they were invaded (false—they cried and whined)

Gideon was the son of what father?

- A. Moab of Disneyland B. Josaphat of Kryptonite C. Joash of Abiezrite

What was Gideon's main problem with God choosing him to lead?

(He saw himself as weak, small and not "leadership" material.)

What did the doubting Gideon want from the Lord to prove that it was really Him?

- A. Slice of pizza with extra cheese B. A 20oz. bottle of Coca-Cola
C. Some kind of sign D. His allowance

DIGGING DEEPER

What would it take for you to really believe that God was talking to you? Would you need a sign?

Let's say today's Take-Away Point together: **God has never given us a reason to doubt Him.**

GRADES
4-6

E3
EXPLORE
their opinion
EVALUATE
their understanding
ENCOURAGE
their walk

I CAN COUNT
ON GOD TO BE
THERE FOR ME

Stop at the
Stop Sign,
and wait for further
instruction before
moving to
next segment.

Don't rush it!
Remember,
the goal is not to
just get through it,
but to **get it through.**

Your 2 goals:
relate with them,
reinforce the lesson.

STOP

STOP



ENCOURAGE – their walk

Remember, it's not always easy to do the trust God, especially when we have doubts and fears. But when we are fearful, and when we face huge challenges where we just can't see how we're going to do it on our own, that's when we need God the most. Let's pray: ***"Dear God, we know things will happen in this world that will cause us to doubt, even lose hope. But Lord, help us to rest all of our trust and hope in You. Thank you for loving us that much! It's in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen."***



Don't forget your KidTOUGH Action Cards for the month. Action Cards help us to strengthen our trust in God, so we can fight off the enemy, and keep from falling into his traps.

MEMORIZE – God's Word



SPOTLIGHT VERSE:

"We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love."
~1 John 4:6

Let's always remember that God loves us, no matter what, and we can trust in His love and care for us!

PREPARE TO GIVE – (take cue from host or storyteller)

Let me ask you....

Who does all our money belong to? **(God)**

What should our attitude be when we give? **(Joyful, happy)**

(Read this scripture)

2 Corinthians 9:7: ***"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."***

Let's pray that God will help us be cheerful givers: ***"Dear God, show us how to give with happy hearts. Giving is a privilege. We've been given so much so that we can share with those who have so little. Bless this offering. Amen"***

GRADES
4-6

EXPLORE
their opinion
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**I CAN COUNT
ON GOD TO BE
THERE FOR ME**



Encourage the kids to take a practical **ACTION** step in their faith journey this week.

Help them memorize this month's **Spotlight Verse.**

Prepare to Give is for children's programs that take an offering.