

# LESSON 9 | God Helps us when we Listen and Obey

**Bible Basis:** Judges 4; 6–7; 13; 16

**Bible Verse:** Leviticus 19:37: “Obey all of my rules and laws. Follow them. I am the LORD.”

**Bible Point:** God saved his people from their enemies. When I follow God, he saves me too!

**Resource:** *The Beginner’s Bible*

- “Deborah Leads the Way” (pages 136–139)
- “Gideon’s Battle” (pages 140–145)
- “Samson” (pages 146–151)

## Master Supplies List

- The Beginner’s Bible*
- Lesson Materials DVD (optional)
- DVD player (optional)
- Family Page (one per child; see end of this lesson)

## Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More**. All craft templates are located at the end of this lesson.

- Option 1:** 8½" x 11" card stock (one piece for every two children), cotton balls, glue sticks or double-sided tape
- Option 2:** 8" strips of orange, red, and yellow crepe paper streamers (two of each color per child); pinwheels (one per child; see **Option 2: Gideon’s Torch**); strong tape (clear or colored to match the streamers)
- Option 4:** Crayons or markers, coloring page (one per child)

## STEP 1 | COME TOGETHER

**INSTRUCT** the children to form a line. They need to stand side by side, facing you, on the opposite side of the room.

**SAY**, Today we are going to play the game Mother, May I?

**ASK**, Who has played this game before?

**SAY**, We are going to play the game to help us understand how important it is to obey. When I tell you to do something, before you do it, you must say these words: “Mother, may I?” Wait for me to answer before you move.

**INSTRUCT** the children (one at a time) to take a certain number of baby, giant, or hopping steps toward you. If they ask, “Mother, may I?” before they move, they may take their move. If they fail to ask, they

have to go back to the starting line. Each child is a winner when they reach you.

**PLAY** the game for six to eight minutes, or until only two or three children are remaining, or until the children’s attention is clearly diminishing (whichever comes first).

**SAY**, When you listened and obeyed, you got to the finish line, didn’t you? It’s important to always listen and obey God.

## STEP 2 | HEAR THE STORY

**Supplies:** *The Beginner’s Bible*, Lesson Materials DVD (optional), DVD player (optional).

**INSTRUCT** the children to listen carefully to the Bible stories.

**TELL** the children that whenever they hear that God's people, the Israelites, obey God, they are to shout, "YAY!"

**PRACTICE** this before you begin reading.

**READ** aloud "Deborah Leads the Way," "Gideon's Battle," and "Samson" from *The Beginner's Bible*. Or, if you prefer, **SHOW** these stories from the lesson on the enclosed DVD.

**ASK**, Who was the woman God talked to when he helped the Israelites get away from the bad king and his men? (*Deborah.*)

**ASK**, Why were the Israelites afraid to fight without Deborah? (*They were not as strong as their enemy.*)

**ASK**, Who told Gideon he was a great warrior? (*An angel.*)

**ASK**, What did Gideon's army use to trick the bad king's army? (*Trumpets, clay jars, and fire.*)

**ASK**, What could Samson never do, or else he would not be strong? (*Cut his hair.*)

**ASK**, Did Samson disobey, or did someone else cut his hair? (*The Philistines, Samson's enemy, cut his hair.*)

**PRAY** with the children. Thank God for all he does and ask him to take care of the children and help them obey him always.

### STEP 3 | EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help the children explore the lesson further.

#### Option 1: Gideon's Wool Fleece

**Supplies:** 8½" x 11" card stock (one piece for every two children); cotton balls (to represent Gideon's wool fleece) to go around the edge of the paper; glue sticks or double-sided tape.

**Teacher Prep:** Cut pieces of card stock in half and print this week's memory verse in the center of each. You will need one piece per child.

**GIVE** each child a card with the memory verse on it.

**SAY** the verse aloud and have the child repeat it to you two or three times.

**GIVE** each child cotton (enough to go around the outside edge of the card) and a glue stick or tape.

**HELP** the children place a line of glue (or tape) on the card, and instruct them to press the cotton balls onto the glue (or tape). As the children are working, remind them of how Gideon obeyed God even when he was afraid.

#### Option 2: Gideon's Torch

**Supplies:** 8" strips of orange, red, and yellow crepe paper streamers (two of each color per child); pinwheels (one per child); strong tape (clear or colored to match the streamers).

**Teacher Prep:** If you are not using plastic pinwheels, ahead of time make one pinwheel per child.

#### Pinwheel Directions

##### Step 1

Fold 7" square of paper diagonally into a triangle. Open it and fold again the other way. Open it up again. You should now have an "X" crease pattern in your paper.

##### Step 2

Using your scissors, cut down the diagonal folds at least halfway to the center. Make all cuts the same size.

##### Step 3

Using a hole punch, punch one hole into each corner and another hole in the center of the paper.

##### Step 4

Make four or five cuts about a quarter of an inch long at the top of a straw. The cuts should be vertical cuts down the opening you would normally drink from.

##### Step 5

Bend the straw at the flexible joint. Place the paper square onto the straw, putting the cut end of the straw through the center hole of the paper. Thread each of the corner holes onto the cut pieces at the center. The paper should make a pinwheel shape when this step is complete.

##### Step 6

Open the cuts of the straw into a spread-out flower shape. This will hold the pinwheel paper onto the straw. The pinwheel is now ready to be blown on to make it spin.

##### Tip

Wrap the straw with double-sided tape prior to poking the hole to make the pinwheel even sturdier.

##### Warning

When placing the corners onto the straw, be careful not to bend or crease the paper.

**GIVE** each child a pinwheel and six streamers (two of each color).

**HELP** the children tape one end of a streamer to each point of their pinwheel to resemble a torch like Gideon and his army used.

**LEAD** the children in marching around the room, holding up their completed pinwheels and saying, "We will follow God."

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### Option 3: "The Lord's Army" March

**TEACH** the children the song "I'm in the Lord's Army" and include the actions. (See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDIy5TUXovo>.)

*I may never march with the infantry (March in place.)*

*Ride with the cavalry (Pretend you're riding a horse.)*

*Shoot the artillery (Clap your hands.)*

*I may never fly o'er the enemy (Arms out, like you're flying.)*

*But I'm in the Lord's Army*

*Yes, sir! (Salute.)*

*I'm in the Lord's Army*

*Yes, sir! (Salute.)*

*I'm in the Lord's Army*

*Yes, sir! (Salute.)*

*I may never march with the infantry (March in place.)*

*Ride with the cavalry (Pretend you're riding a horse.)*

*Shoot the artillery (Clap your hands.)*

*I may never fly o'er the enemy (Arms out, like you're flying.)*

*But I'm in the Lord's Army!*

**SING** and dance with your class.

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### Option 4: Let's Color

**Supplies:** Crayons or markers, coloring page (one per child).

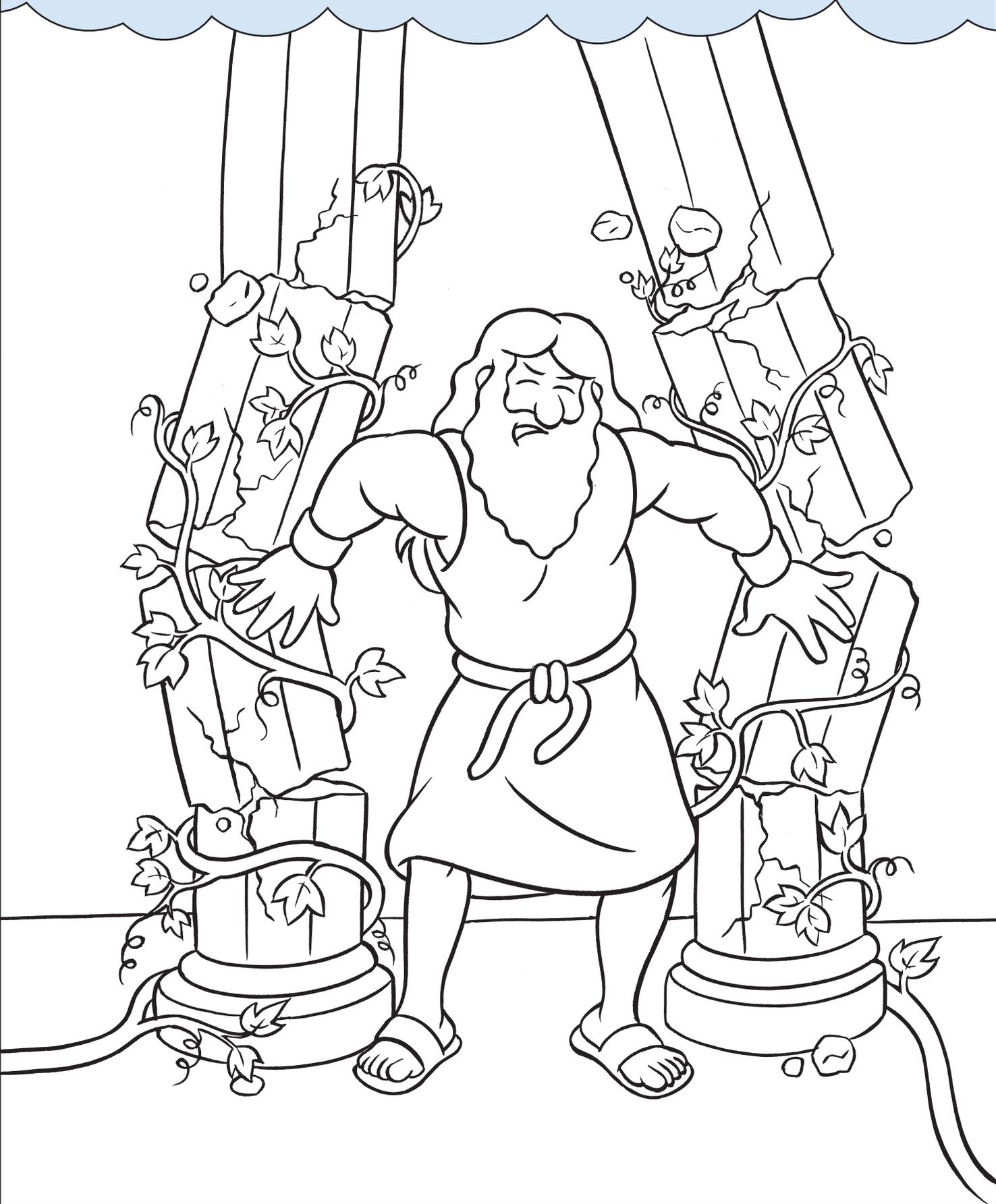
## STEP 4 | GOING HOME

**Supplies:** Family Page (one per child).

**GIVE** each child a copy of this week's Family Page.

**SAY,** Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family about how Deborah, Gideon, and Samson listened to God and obeyed him.

LESSON 9 | **Let's Color**



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## How to use This Page

This week, you can read the stories listed above in *The Beginner’s Bible* several times to help your child remember them. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed as a drama to help your child remember the Bible lesson. The Extra Mile provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

### TABLE TALK

1. Why did the Israelite army want Deborah to go with them to fight their enemy? (*She was brave and always obeyed God. They knew that God would be with them if she went with them.*)
2. Was Gideon’s army bigger or smaller than the army they were fighting? (*Smaller.*)
3. Who cut off Samson’s hair? (*The Philistines, who were Samson’s enemies.*)
4. What happened to Samson when his hair was cut off? (*He lost his strength, and the Philistines put him in jail.*)

### LIVING FAITH

Have your child select one of the Bible stories from this week and act it out for you as you read the story aloud from *The Beginner’s Bible*. Provide your child with props, such as a bathrobe and broom for a robe and staff, a baby blanket or pillow for Gideon’s wool fleece, and a length of rope to tie up your child for the story of Samson.

When you come to the place(s) in the story where a Bible character speaks, instruct your child what to say. If possible, have your child perform the Bible drama for other family members in person, via Skype, or using a video camera.

### EXTRA MILE

- Give your child a sticker or small treat every day for reciting the memory verse to you. If your child can say or sing the verse for several days without help, the reward would be an extra bedtime story or play time.
- Teach your child the memory verse by singing it to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”

**NOTE:** *You will sing the memory verse three times to complete one full verse of the song. You can also do this to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”*

- Encourage your child to be the teacher and tell the Bible stories to dolls or stuffed animals.
- Play Mother, May I? and allow your child to take two or three steps toward you for every correct answer to a question about the Bible stories of the week and for reciting the memory verse. When your child reaches you, give a big hug. Say how proud you are of your child for obeying you and God and how much you love your child.