

## Meeting

# 3

# Ask God for Guidance

### Bible Verse:

Proverbs 16:3

### Extra Bible Verse:

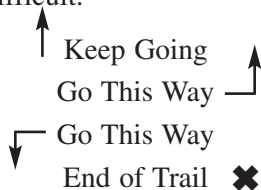
Philippians 4:13

### Provide:

- Rocks of various sizes
- Sticks of different sizes
- Chairs
- Plants
- Marker
- White paper

### To Do:

- Set up a trail in a large room with the following signs as guides. Use chairs to create a path. Use rocks, plants, and sticks as obstacles to make the trail more difficult.



- On the paper draw a trail sign. Show all four drawings. Make photocopies for each small group.

### Purpose:

This meeting can help children develop an attitude of prayer about all their decisions. Children can understand the need to ask God to direct their daily lives.

### Bible Material:

Gideon Talks to God (Judges 6:25–7:22)

### Warm-up

Get-involved Activity

(10 minutes)

Tell the children: “Today you are going to follow a trail. On a trail it is important to notice the trail signs and understand how they are guiding you. Let’s look at the trail signs and the directions they indicate.” Show the children the trail sign mini-posters you prepared. If you have set up the trail outside or in another area of the church, take the children to the designated area. Leave one coach in the room to direct the children who arrive late.

Gather the children into small groups. Give each small group a trail sign mini-poster. Ask the coaches to stand along the trail to help the children if they have difficulty following the trail signs or understanding what direction the trail signs are indicating. Ask one coach to position himself at the end of the trail to guide the children to be seated as they wait for the other children.

When all of the kids have completed the trail, say: “Today you followed directions as you followed the trail. In our meeting you will be talking about asking God for guidance to help direct you in your daily life.”

## Workout

Group Study  
(30 minutes)

**1. Play a game.** Say to the children: “Each day you make many decisions. You are going to play a game called ‘Popcorn.’ One of our coaches will play some music. When the music stops, pop up or stand up if you can name a decision you make each day. (Hint: Ask the coach playing the CD to sit behind the group so they cannot see when she is stopping the music.)

**2. Discuss an attitude of prayer.** Say to the children: “We just talked about decisions we make each day. Many decisions, such as what clothes you will wear, you can make yourself. For other decisions, such as how to treat someone who has said something mean about you, you may need to ask God for help. God wants you to ask Him for guidance throughout your day.” Ask for volunteers to name ways they can remember to ask God for help each day. Ask the girls and boys to think of how this can make them feel. How can this help them?

**3. Tell the Bible story.** Ask the coaches to distribute the flags to the girls and boys. Tell the children: “Today’s Bible story is about Gideon. As you listen, you will find out that Gideon was a man who talked to God. You also will discover that God gave Gideon guidance and helped him know what decisions to make.

“Listen carefully to the Bible story. When you hear me describe God giving Gideon guidance, raise your flag and wave it. I will nod my head to affirm your response, then lower my hand to remind you to lower your flags until you hear another time where God gave Gideon guidance.”

### Gideon Talks to God

One day Gideon and all his men got up early and camped at the spring of Harod. The Lord said to Gideon, “You have so many men that victory over the Midianites would seem certain to them. They might think they had won by themselves and not give Me credit. Announce to your men, ‘Anyone who is afraid should go back home, and the rest of us will stay here at Mount Gilead.’” (*The children will raise their flags.*) Right then 22,000 men went back, but 10,000 men stayed.

The Lord said to Gideon, “You still have too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will separate them for you there. If I tell you a man should go with you, he will go. If I tell you a man should not go with you, he will not go.” (*The children will raise their flags.*)

Gideon took the men down to the water, and the Lord told him, “Separate everyone who laps up the water with his tongue, like a dog, from those who get down on their knees to drink.” (*The children will raise their flags.*) There were 300 men who scooped up water in their

### Provide

- CD player
- CD of instrumental music

### Provide:

- Cloth or paper scraps
- Scissors

### To Do:

- Cut scraps of cloth or paper into flag or pennant shapes no larger than 6 inches.

hands and lapped it; the others got down on their knees to drink.

The Lord said to Gideon, “I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites with the 300 men who lapped the water. Tell everyone else to go home.” (*The children will raise their flags.*) So Gideon sent all but 300 Israelites home. They kept all the supplies and trumpets.

The camp of Midian lay below them in the valley. During the night the Lord said to Gideon, “Get up and attack the camp; I am giving you victory over it. But if you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah. You will hear what they are saying, and then you will have the courage to attack.” (*The children will raise their flags.*) So Gideon and Purah went down to the edge of the enemy camp. The Midianites, the Amalekites, and the desert tribesmen were spread out in the valley like a swarm of locusts, and they had as many camels as there were grains of sand on the seashore.

When Gideon arrived, he heard a man telling about a dream. He was saying, “I dreamed that a loaf of barley bread rolled into our camp and hit a tent. The tent collapsed and lay flat on the ground.” His friend replied, “It’s the sword of the Israelite, Gideon! It can’t mean anything else! God has given him victory over Midian and our whole army!”

When Gideon heard about the man’s dream and what it meant, he fell to his knees and worshiped the Lord. Then he went back to the Israelite camp and said, “Get up! The Lord is giving you victory over the Midianite army!” He then divided his 300 men into three groups and gave each a trumpet and a jar with a torch inside it. He told them, “When I get to the edge of the camp, watch me and do what I do. When my group and I blow our trumpets, then you blow yours all around the camp and shout, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon!’ ”

Gideon and his 100 men came to the edge of the camp before midnight. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars they were holding, and the other two groups did the same. They all held the torches in their left hands, the trumpets in their right, and shouted, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!” Each of Gideon’s men stood in his place around the camp, and the enemy army ran away, yelling. As they fled, the Lord caused the enemy troops to attack each other with their swords.

—Based on Judges 7:1-22

**4. Review the Bible story.** Gather the kids into three groups. Instruct each group to form a circle. Ask the children to select someone to be the spokesperson for their team.

Tell the children: “We are going to play a Bible story review game. I will ask a question. As a team, decide on the answer and select one person to stand up and say for your team, ‘A sword for the Lord and for Gideon.’ I will decide which team I hear call out first. Let’s begin!” Use the following questions, or make up your own:

- How did God tell Gideon to first reduce his men? (*All who were afraid could go home.*)
- What army did Gideon and his men fight? (*Midianite army*)

- When Gideon took the men down to the water, how was he to pick the men to stay and those who would go? (*Those who lapped like dogs would stay and those who got down on their knees would go.*)
- What did God tell Gideon he should do if he was afraid to attack the Midianites? (*go and listen to them talk*)
- What did the Midianite’s dream mean? (*God was going to deliver them to Gideon.*)
- What did Gideon’s men carry with them into battle? (*jars, torches, and trumpets*)
- What happened to the Midianite army? (*They fled and killed themselves.*)

**5. Learn a Bible verse.** Say to the children: “We talked earlier about the decisions we make each day. God wants you to talk with Him. In the Book of Proverbs a Bible verse reminds you to talk with God about the things that concern you. Listen as I say the Bible verse.” Say Proverbs 16:3 aloud. Say the verse several time and ask the children to repeat it with you.

**6. Pray with a buddy.** Tell the children: “You can ask God to direct your lives each day.” Ask coaches to distribute cards and pencils. Invite girls and boys to write on their cards something that they want to ask for God’s help and direction in this week. When they finish, they may raise their pencils, and a coach will collect them. Ask them to find a friend or another person, “buddy up,” and pray with their buddy.

**7. Dismiss for STRETCHING.** Dismiss the kids to their STRETCHING groups by grades. Encourage the children to being working immediately.

## Stretching

Activity Page Time  
(20 minutes)

Answers for the activity pages are found on the last page of this meeting. You may choose to provide photocopies of this page to the STRETCHING coaches.

## The Tournament

Games and Activities  
(20 minutes)

Blow the whistle to begin THE TOURNAMENT time. Choose from the following games and activities.

### Provide:

- Colored 3-by-5-inch cards
- Pencils

### Provide:

- A whistle

**To Do:**

- Designate a starting line and a finish line.

**Provide:**

- Masking tape or chalk
- Balloons

**To Do:**

- Mark 2 out of bounds lines across both ends of the playing field.
- Blow several balloons up and tie them.
- Mark a “net” between the two teams.

*Follow My Lead*

This is a “follow the leader” game. A coach leads the children in crazy motions and actions. First, just walk around the room. Next add some hand motions. Then add some head motions as you walk. Next, walk backward; crawl under tables; walk like a duck; flap your arms like a bird; slide on the floor like a snake; go out into the hall or outside; sing a song, such as “Father Abraham” or “John Jacob Jingleheimer Smith.”

Ask: “Would Gideon have been successful if his men had not followed him?” Remind the children of the importance of following God.

*Father, May I?*

Choose a player to be the Father. The Father stands at the finish line, and all other players stand at the starting line. In turn, each player suggests to the Father how he would like to move toward the finish line. For example, he might ask, “Father, may I take three giant steps?” The Father can grant the request by saying, “Yes, or you may.” He may deny the request by saying, “No, you may not.” Or he may give an alternate instruction by saying something like, “No, but you may turn around twice and then take two baby steps.” Before any player moves he must always ask, “Father, may I?”

If a player moves without asking and receiving permission, he must move back to the starting line. The first player to get to the finish line wins. If possible, let each player have a chance to be the Father.

Say: “When you pray and ask God for direction in your life, sometimes God will say, “Yes,” sometimes He will say, “No,” and sometimes he will give you a different direction to go.

*Mini-Volleyball*

Guide the children to sit on the floor and play volleyball using a balloon. After the game has been going on a while, instruct the children to lie down to play. Next direct them to turn around with their backs to the “net.” To add a twist, add two or more balloons to the game.

For a more exciting game, set chairs up to form an X, making four courts. Play four-way volleyball with the balloons.

Ask the children to explain how they felt during the game. Were they frustrated, excited, or confused? Remind the children that they can pray to God and tell Him how they feel. Say: “God is always near to listen, guide, and help you.”

## Cool Down

Refreshments and Conclusion  
(10 minutes)

Request that children sit in groups of six on the floor. Give each group a number. Call the groups to the serving table by saying: “Group four report to the mess table to receive your MRE.” Let the children guess what MRE stands for. Encourage the coaches to sit with the groups.

Say: “Today you learned about prayer and the importance of asking God to help you make decisions each day. You have discovered that you can ask God to direct your daily lives.”

At the end, ask the children to hold up the cards they used to record the decision they want to ask God’s help with this week. Remind them to put it in a place where they can see it daily and remember to pray.

### Provide:

- A brown or dark green plastic tablecloth
- Juice in boxes
- Packages of peanut butter and crackers or granola bars
- Brown paper sacks

### To Do:

- Assemble the Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) by placing a juice box and a package of crackers or a granola bar in each sack.
- Cover the serving table with a plastic tablecloth.
- Place the MREs in units of 6 on the table.

**Allergy alert:** Check to see if any of the children is allergic to peanut butter.

## Meeting 3: Answers to Activity Pages

*Grades 1–3*

### Mystery Letters

Pray every day about your choices.