

# Gideon

## More Heroes of Old Lesson 3

### Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify Gideon as the man who was a warrior for God.
- The children will list ways that they can be courageous.
- The children will ask God to help them to be courageous.

### Lesson Text

Judges 6

### Scripture Memory Verse

"The Lord is with you,  
mighty warrior."

*Judges 6:12*

### Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Gideon's Courage-1

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Gideon's Courage-2

Life Application: Pray for Courage

Craft: Badge of Courage

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.





# Gideon

## Gideon's Courage-1

The children will make props to be used during the Bible Story center.

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

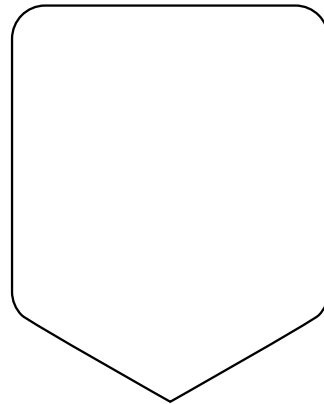
- 6 large pieces of cardboard
- aluminum foil
- 1 old towel or old piece of rug
- cotton balls
- glue
- scissors

### Preparation

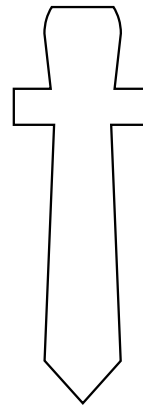
1. Using Figure A as a guide, make the "swords" and "shields" as follows:
  - A. Draw and then cut out three shields from cardboard.
  - B. Draw and then cut out three swords from cardboard.
2. Using Figure A as a guide, cut a "fleece" from the towel.

### Instructions

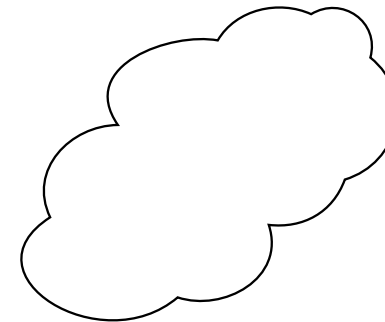
1. As the children arrive have them choose which prop they would like to decorate.
2. Have one group of children glue aluminum foil onto the shields and the swords.
3. Have one group of children pull apart and glue cotton balls onto the fleece.
4. Give the completed swords, shields and fleece to the Bible Story teacher.



shield



sword



fleece

Figure A

# Gideon

## Gideon's Courage-2

The children will hear the story of Gideon being chosen by God.

### Lesson Text

Judges 6

### Materials

For the teacher:

- shields, swords and the fleece from the Preclass Activity
- Bible

### The Fleece

Has anyone ever heard of a man in the Bible named Gideon? He lived a long time before Jesus lived. Today we are going to hear about him from a book in the Bible called Judges. Gideon's story is in chapter 6 of Judges.

Choose three children to be Israelites, three to be the Midianites and one to be Gideon. Give a sword and shield to each of the Midianites.

A long time ago, the Midianites took over the Israelites' land and destroyed their crops. The Midianites were so mean to the Israelites that they had to leave their homes and go live inside caves. (Judges 6:1-3)

Have the Israelites pretend to be planting seeds in the ground. When the Israelites tried to plant seeds so that they could grow food and eat, the Midianites camped on the ground and destroyed the seeds. (Judges 6:4) Have the Midianites pretend to "camp" on the land that the Israelites had been planting.

This made the Israelites so sad that they finally decided to cry out to God for help. They told God they were sorry, and that they really needed him. (Judges 6:6) Have the Israelites kneel down, and then pretend to pray to God for help. Have the Midianites sit down with the rest of the children.

God heard the Israelites cry for help, so he sent an angel to help them. The angel delivered an important message to Gideon, a young man who was busy hiding wheat so the Medianites would not find it. Have Gideon pretend to hide wheat. The angel told Gideon that God was going to use him to help rescue Israel from the Midianites. The angel said to Gideon "The Lord is with you mighty warrior." (Judges 6:12) But Gideon did not believe the angel.

Gideon made some food for the angel. (Judges 6:19) When Gideon gave him the food, the angel touched it with his staff and it burst into flames. (Judges 6:21) When Gideon saw what happened to the food, he believed the angel. Gideon knew that God wanted him to help his people. (Judges 6:22)

Still Gideon was afraid. He decided to ask God for a special message. Gideon laid a fleece on the ground, and then prayed. He prayed that if God really wanted his help, God would make the fleece wet, but would keep the ground all around it dry. (Judges 6:36-37) Have Gideon lay the fleece on the ground and pretend to pray. The next day when Gideon picked up the fleece it was covered with water, but the ground stayed dry. (Judges 6:38) God had answered his prayer.

Still Gideon was afraid. He decided to ask God for another special message. He prayed again and asked God to forgive him for his doubting. He asked if this time God would keep the fleece dry, but make all the ground wet. (Judges 6:39) God answered his prayer again. The next day, the ground all around the fleece was wet, but the fleece was completely dry! (Judges 6:40) Wow! Now Gideon knew for sure that God was with him. He knew that God would help him save the Israelites from the Midianites.

### Conclusion

Gideon wanted to be his best for God. He wanted his people to be free, and he also wanted them to love God. God picked him because he knew that Gideon loved his people. God knew that Gideon would do his best.

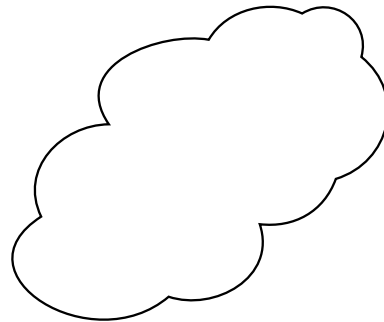
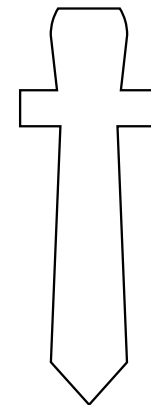
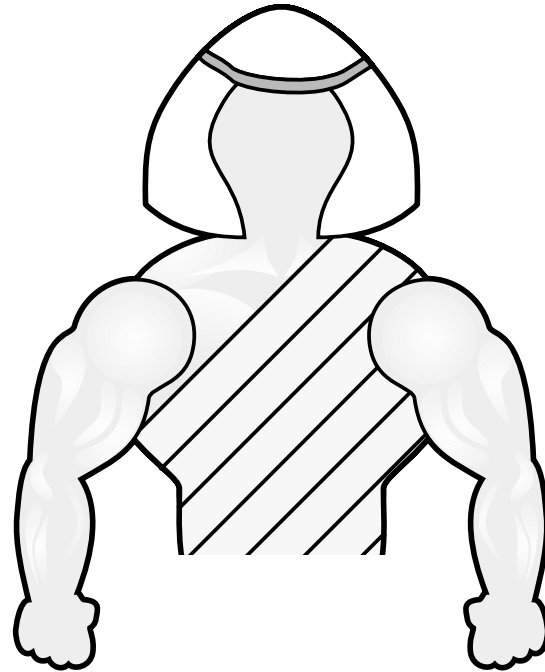
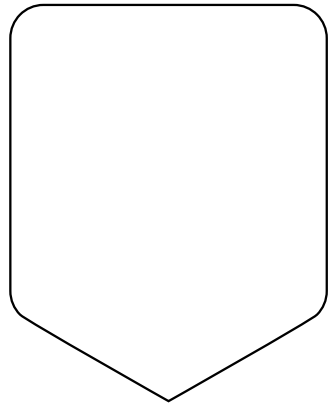
Sometimes it is hard to do our best. Sometimes it's hard for us to believe that God is with us, but just as God was with Gideon, he is always with us. Remember God wants us to do our best, too.

### Teacher Tips

You may want to bring other props to class such as seed, garden tools and a bucket of water.



# Gideon



## Gideon

## Pray for Courage

The children will role play ways to have courage and pray in everyday situations.

## Scripture Memory Verse

"The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

Judges 6:12

## Materials

For the teacher:

- index cards
- pencil
- a bag or hat

## Preparation

1. On each index card, write an everyday situation that requires a child to have courage. Use the following examples:
  - You are pushed down by a bigger kid.
  - Your sister takes a toy out of your hand.
  - You break your mom's vase.
  - You don't like the food you've been given for dinner.
  - You have to go to the doctor for a shot.
  - Your friend doesn't invite you to his birthday party.
  - You're playing a game and you lose.
  - You can't tie your shoes.
  - You can't find your coat.
2. Place all the index cards in a bag or hat.

## Instructions

1. Introduce the activity as follows: *Does anyone know what the word "courage" means? Yes, it means to do something that is hard to do. Today we will learn what to do when we have to make hard choices. We will also learn to ask God for his help. God always wants to help us do the right thing, and he will always give us the courage to do it.*
2. Have a child pick a card from the bag.

3. Read the situation written on the card aloud to the children.
4. Ask the child: *What do you need courage to do?* For example if the card reads, "You break your mom's vase." The child should respond by saying, "Tell my mom the truth."
5. Ask the same child: *What will you pray?* The child should respond by saying, "I will pray to ask God to help me to tell the truth, and say I'm sorry."
6. If the child has difficulty answering the questions, ask the other children for help.
7. Continue this activity until each child has a turn.

## Scripture Memory Activity

Read the memory verse to the children. Repeat it a few times alone, and then have the children say it with you.

Discuss what the verse means with the children. *In our Bible story we are learning about Gideon. God wanted Gideon to lead his people against the Midianites. That was a very hard thing for Gideon to do. He needed a lot of courage, so he prayed and asked God for help. God helped Gideon become a mighty warrior.*

## Conclusion

Review the activity with the children. *The next time you have to do something that is hard to do, what do you need? That's right, courage. Who can we ask for courage to help us? That's right, God can give us courage. God always wants to help us do the right thing, and he will always give us the courage to do it.*

Choose a child to pray and ask God to give everyone in the group courage. Have the child ask specifically for courage to invite their friends to come to Bible class.

## Teacher Tips

Feel free to make up any other age appropriate situations that require courage.



# Gideon

Life

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"The Lord is with you,  
mighty warrior."

Judges 6:12



# Gideon

## Badge of Courage

The children will make badges to help them remember Gideon's courage to follow God.

### Materials

*For each child:*

- crayons, colored pencils or markers
- glue stick

*For the teacher:*

- construction paper
- decorative items: glitter, beads, buttons, etc.
- yarn
- scissors
- hole punch

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page B, 1 copy for each child

### Preparation

1. Prepare the badges as follows:
  - A. Cut out the badge stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page A.
  - B. Trace and cut out one badge from construction paper for each child.
  - C. On each badge write "Badge of Courage."
2. Cut out the badge circles from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
3. Cut a 30" piece of yarn for each child.
4. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

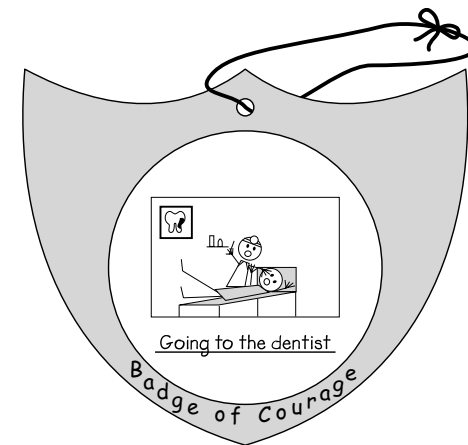
### Instructions

1. Introduce the craft as follows: *Our Bible story today is about Gideon and his courage to listen to God and become the leader of God's people. When we listen and obey God even though it may be hard, we are, being courageous. Show them your badge and share with the children about a time when you were courageous. Be sure that the children can relate to your example. Ask the children to think of something that they have done that was courageous.*

2. Give each child a circle. Have the children draw a picture of their "courageous act" on their circles.
3. Give each child a construction paper badge. Have the children glue their circles to the blank side of their badges.
4. Ask each child what their picture shows. *Tell me about your picture.* Write their answers on the line underneath their pictures.
5. Have the children color their badges, and then glue on any decorative items.
6. Finish the badges as follows:
  - A. Punch a hole through each child's badge.
  - B. Have the children help thread a piece of yarn through the punched hole in their badges.
  - C. Tie the end of the yarn in a knot making badges the children can wear around their necks.

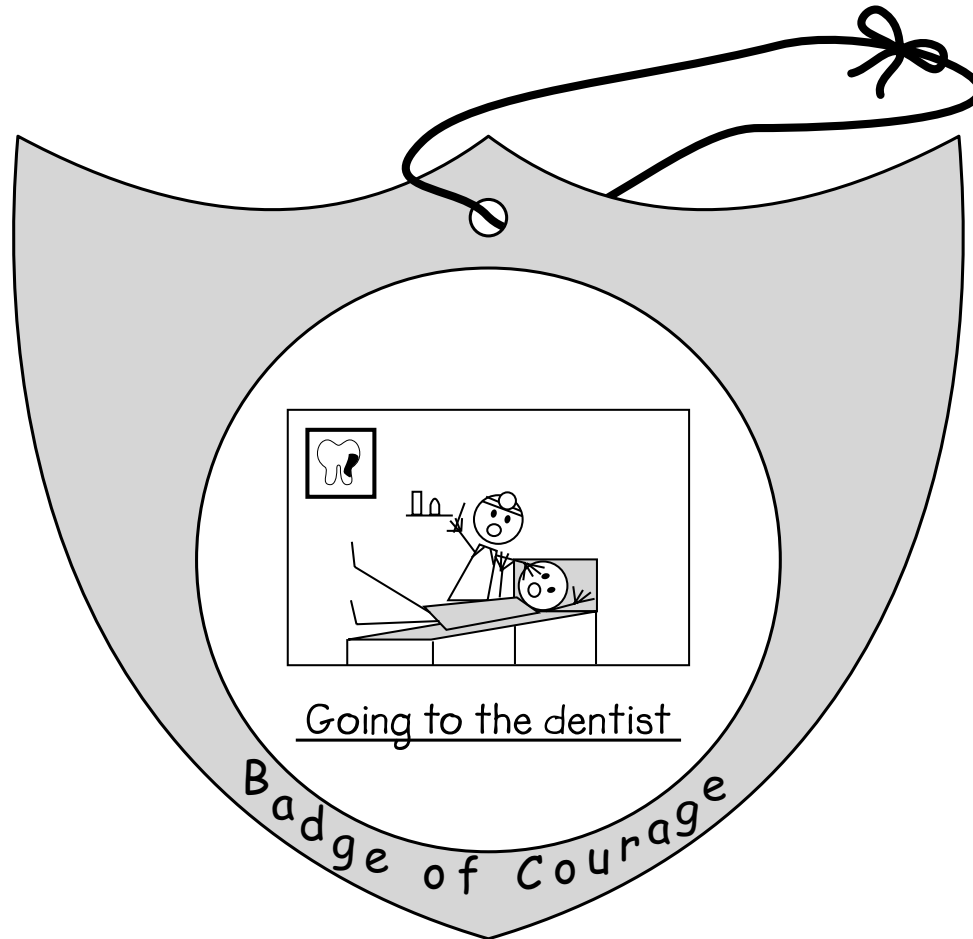
### Teacher Tips

- Children may find it difficult to think of ways that they are courageous. Help them to think of ways that they may have been courageous by asking them questions. *What is something that was hard to do, but you did anyway?*
- Some examples of courageous acts for children are going to the dentist, eating new foods and telling the truth.
- White glue may work better on decorative items that are heavy.



# CRAFT

Gideon



Finished Craft







Pre class



### Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify Gideon as the man who was a warrior for God.
- The children will list ways that they can be more bold.
- The children will thank God for enabling them to be bold.

### Lesson Text

Judges 6

### Scripture Memory Verse

"The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

*Judges 6:12*

### Drop the Fleece

The children will play a game that will help them to remember Gideon's courage.

#### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- a wash cloth or small piece of material

#### Preparation

1. Cut the wash cloth into the shape of a fleece. See Figure A.
2. Read Judges 6.
3. Familiarize yourself with the game.

#### Instructions

1. Have the children sit in a circle.
2. Sing "Mighty Warrior" from the Unit 9 Song Sheet with the children a few times until they become familiar with the song.

### Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Drop the Fleece

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Game: Be Courageous

Craft: The Fleece

Life Application: Pray for Courage

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.

3. Play the game as follows:
  - A. Give a child the "fleece," and then have that child walk around the outside of the circle as the rest of the children sing the song.
  - B. At the end of the verse, have the child gently place the fleece onto another child's head.
  - C. Have the first child run around the circle with the second child chasing him until he reaches the spot where the fleece was dropped. If the first child reaches the spot before the second child, then he sits down in the other child's place. If not, then the first child sits in the center during the second child's turn to drop the fleece.
  - D. Continue playing the game until all of the children have a turn.

#### Conclusion

Briefly recap the story of Gideon, emphasizing that he overcame his fears by praying and how God answered his specific prayers.

#### Teacher Tips

- Making the children's circle large will make a better game.
- Supervise the children closely during this game to make sure that they don't get overly excited.

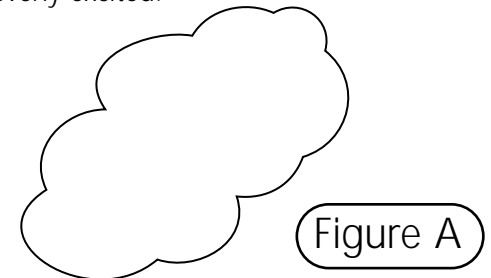


Figure A



### Be Courageous

The children will play a game in which they have to be courageous like Gideon.

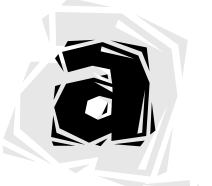
#### Materials

For each child:

- 1 small prize such as a crayon, pencil or eraser

For the teacher:

- 1 paper bag
- any item to place into the paper bag



#### Preparation

1. Place the item into the paper bag.
2. Familiarize yourself with the game.



#### Instructions

1. Tell the children that you need some volunteers to be as courageous as Gideon.
2. Have the children who volunteer stand in a line.
3. Tell the volunteers that you want them to place their hand inside the bag and feel what is inside it, but first explain to them that they need to remain quiet, and not tell anyone what they feel inside the bag.
4. Have the volunteers take turns placing their hands inside the bag.
5. After all of the volunteers have had their turns, some of the other children may decide that they want to volunteer, too. Let anyone else who wants to, place their hand inside the bag.



#### Conclusion

Discuss with the children how they felt before they put their hand into the bag. *Were you scared? Were you afraid you might touch something yucky? Was it hard to put your hand inside the bag?*

Discuss with the children how they felt afterwards. *What was in the bag? Was it scary? Are you glad you took a chance and volunteered?*

*What did it take to place your hand in the bag? That's right it took courage. You are all very courageous!* Give each child a prize for being courageous.

#### Teacher Tips

- You may choose to have a few bags with different items to make the game more interesting.
- Make sure that all the children get a prize, even those that didn't participate.

**The Lord is with you,  
mighty warrior.**

**Judges 6:12**



C  
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A  
F  
T

### The fleece

The children will make "fleeces" to remind them of Gideon's courage to lead his people.

#### Materials

For each child:

- glue stick
- 5 cotton balls

For the teacher:

- poster board
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each child

#### Preparation

1. Cut out the scripture text boxes from the copies of Reproducible Page C.
2. Cut out the fleece stencil from one of the copies of Reproducible Page C.
3. Trace and cut out one "fleece" for each child from poster board.
4. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

#### Instructions

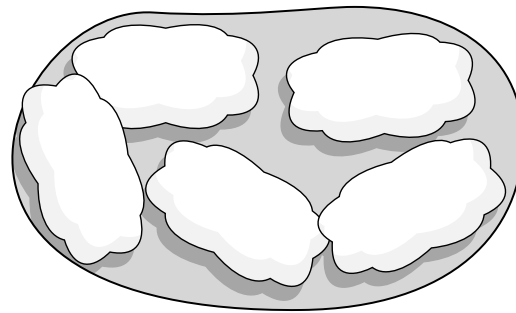
1. Introduce the craft as follows. Ask the children, *What did Gideon place on the ground to see if God was with him? Yes a fleece.* Show them the model of the craft. Explain to them that fleece is a piece of wool from sheep. *Today you are going to make your very own fleece. It will help you remember the story of Gideon, and to also remember that God is with you, too.*
2. Give each child a fleece and five cotton balls. Have the children pull apart the cotton balls, and then glue them onto the fleece.
3. Give each child a scripture text box to glue onto the back of the fleece.
4. On the back of the fleece, have each child draw a picture of Gideon hanging out his fleece for God.

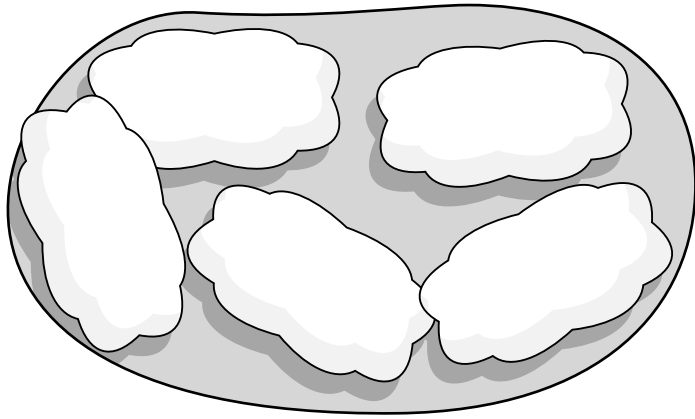
#### Conclusion

Remind the children that Gideon listened to God. He was bold and God helped him lead the Israelites to victory.

#### Teacher Tips

You may choose to use fabric instead of poster board to make a more realistic looking fleece.





front



back

Finished Craft

## Pray for Courage

The children will role play ways to have courage and pray in everyday situations.

### Scripture Memory Verse

"The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

*Judges 6:12*

### Materials

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### Preparation

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  - You have to go to the doctor for a shot.
  - Your friend doesn't invite you to his birthday party.
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  - You can't find your coat.
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### Scripture Memory Activity

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### Conclusion

Review the activity with the children. *The next time you have to do something that is hard to do, what do you need? That's right, courage. Who can we ask for courage to help us? That's right, God can give us courage. God always wants to help us do the right thing, and he will always give us the courage to do it.*

Choose a child to pray and ask God to give everyone in the group courage. Have the child ask specifically for courage to invite their friends to come to Bible class.

### Teacher Tips

Feel free to make up any other age appropriate situations that require courage.

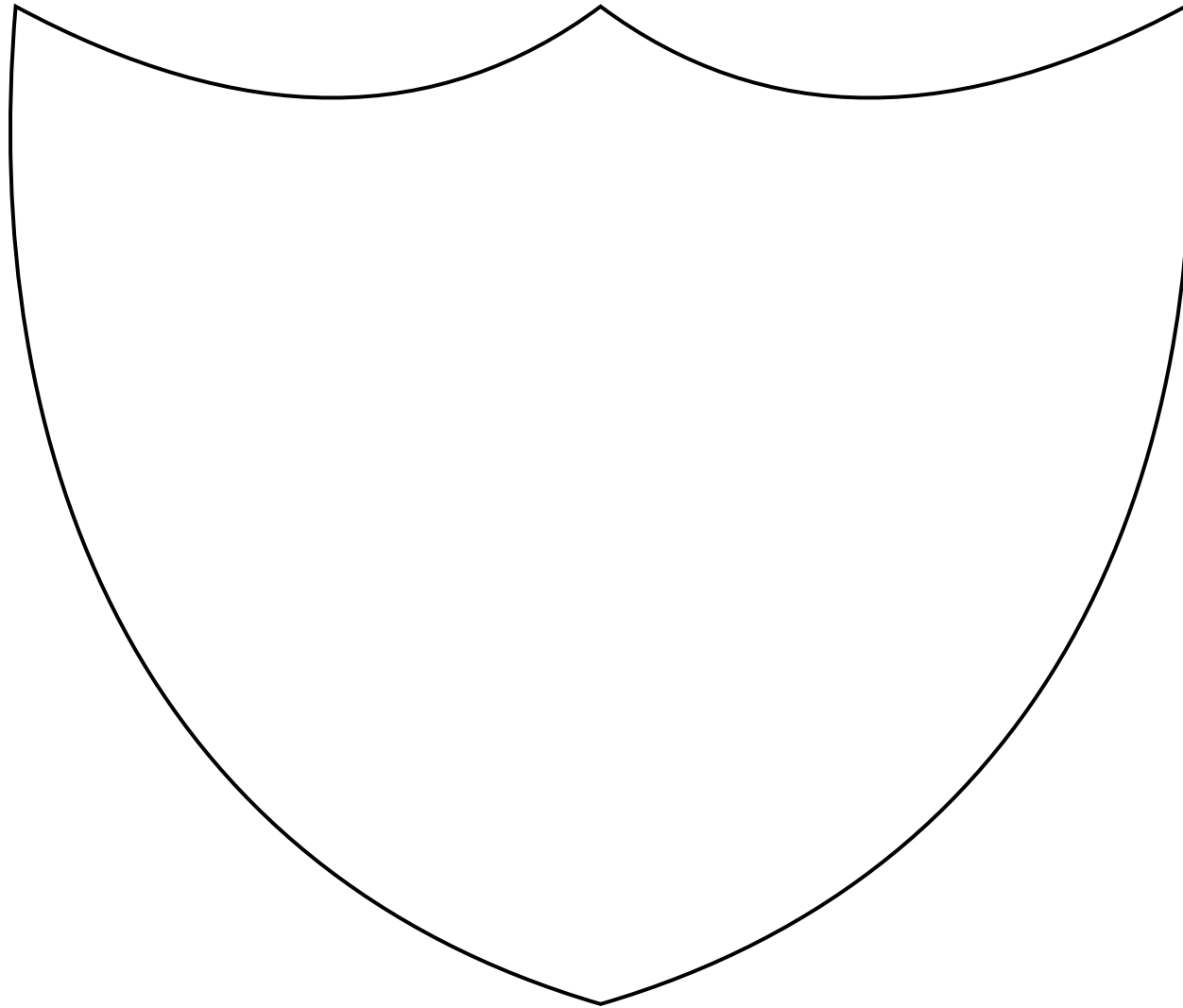


"The Lord is with you,  
mighty warrior."

Judges 6:12



Core/Craft  
1 copy for the teacher



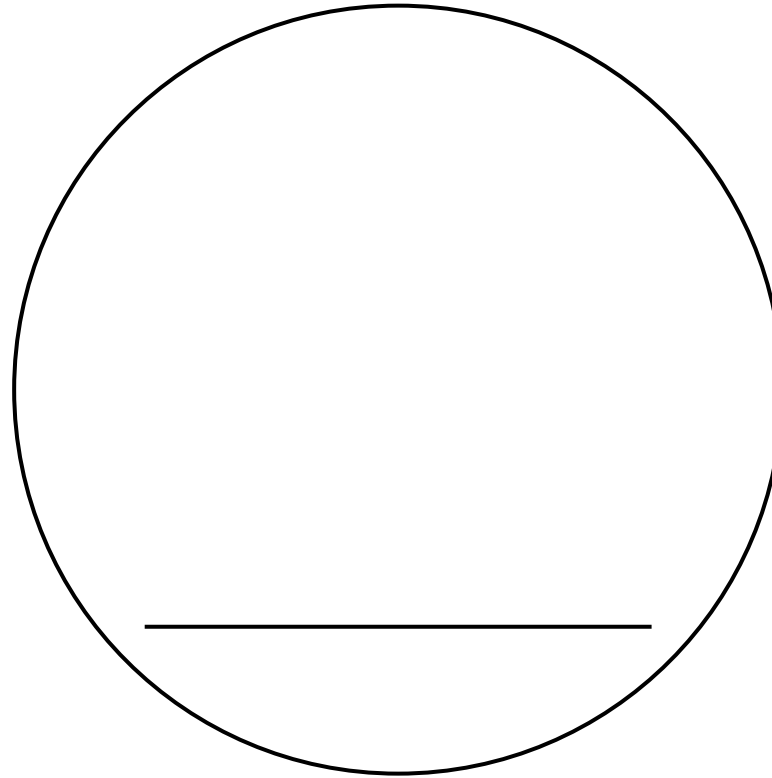
badge stencil

**REPRODUCTION**

Page  
**A**



Core/Craft  
1 copy for each child



badge circle

**BE-BE-BE-BE**

Page

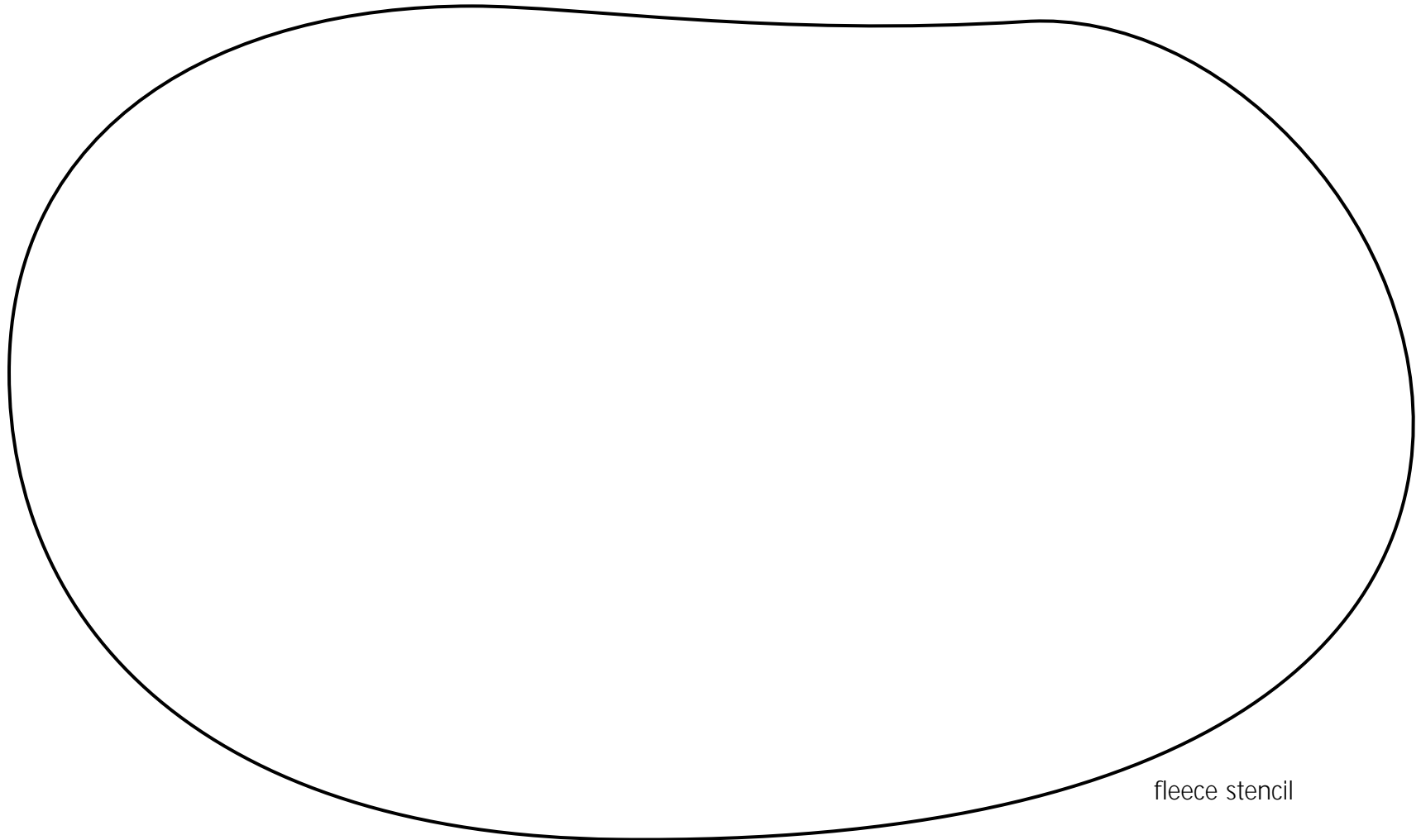
**B**





Supplement/Craft

1 copy for each child



fleece stencil

“The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”  
Judges 6:12

scripture text box

Page

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