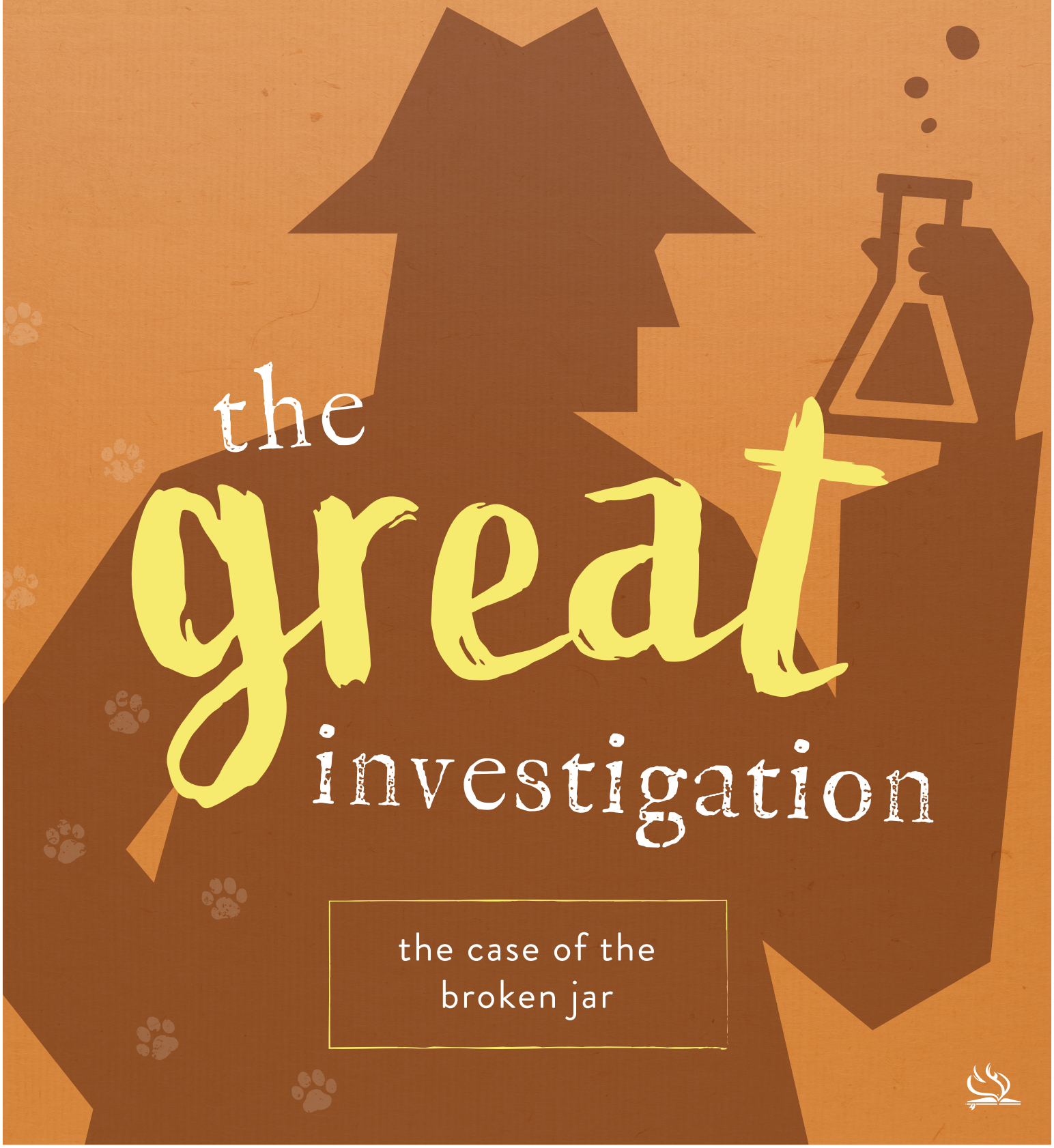
A Vacation Bible School Curriculum for the Church of the Nazarene, Inc.

Lesson Three



the great investigation

the case of the broken jar

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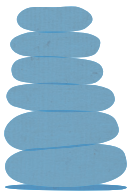
WEEK AT A GLANCE

	LESSON ONE	LESSON TWO	LESSON THREE	LESSON FOUR
	The Case of the Towering Stones	**The Case of the Hanging Red Cord**	**The Case of the Broken Jar**	**The Case of the Missing Grain Bag**
MAIN POINT	God loves us and prepares a way for us before we know we need Him	God offers salvation to everyone through His Son, Jesus	When we give our lives to God, He will guide us and teach us	God is always faithful, so we can trust Him
MEMORY VERSE	Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. **Joshua 1:9**	I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. **Acts 10:34-35**	Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. **Psalm 27:14**	For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. **Psalm 100:5**
BIBLE STORY	Joshua and the Israelites cross Jordan River **Joshua 1, 3-4**	Rahab believes in God **Joshua 2:1-24; 6:1-25**	Gideon is led by God **Judges 6:36-40; 7:1-25**	Ruth finds a new home **Ruth 1-4**
CLUE OF THE DAY	God seeks us.	God saves us.	God leads us.	We can trust God.
THEOLOGICAL FOCUS	Prevenient Grace	Salvation	Sanctification/ Covenant	Ongoing Discipleship
LESSON ICON	 Tower of Stones	Red Cord	Broken Jar	Bag of Grain

WEEK AT A GLANCE

	LESSON ONE The Case of the Towering Stones	LESSON TWO The Case of the Hanging Red Cord	LESSON THREE The Case of the Broken Jar	LESSON FOUR The Case of the Missing Grain Bag
EVIDENCE VAULT	Joshua and the Israelites cross the Jordan River	Rahab believes in God	Gideon is led by God	Ruth finds a new home
INVESTIGATION LAB	Types of Fingerprints, Lifting Fingerprints	Unknown Powder, Evidence Left Behind, Match the Fibers	Unknown Liquids	Investigating Footprints
DISCOVERY SHOP	Detective Case Solving Kit, Handprint	Salvation Bracelet	Gideon's Trumpet	Grain and Seed Mosaic
CONFIDENTIAL CAFÉ	Crossing Jordan Crackers	Jericho's Wall Rice Krispy Square	Gideon's Torch Snack	Boaz's Field Brownie
FIELD ADVENTURES	Hide and Seek Tag, Fingertip Relay	Weaving A Web, Strings Attached	Blindfolded Obstacle Course, Make a Motion	Shoe Shuffle, Hopscotch
DETECTIVE CASE SOLVING KIT	Small empty container, Clear tape, Small paintbrush, Cocoa powder, Index cards	Magnifying glass, Tweezers	No additions	Black crayon, White paper

INTRODUCTION

- **Main Point:** When we give our lives to God, He will guide us and teach us.
- **Memory Verse:** "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." Psalm 27:14
- **Bible Story:** Gideon is led by God; Judges 6:36-40; 7:1-25
- **Clue of the Day:** God leads us.
- **Theological Focus:** Sanctification/Covenant

God seeks each one of us, wanting a relationship with us. When we say yes to Him, He saves us. He then guides us and directs us as we obey Him. He leads us in becoming the people He created us to be.

Gideon had a choice to make. He believed in God, but would he follow Him? Would he be led by God even when it didn't make sense? By obeying God, he discovered that God's plan was better than anything Gideon could have orchestrated.

OPENING

☑	SUPPLIES
	Lesson Three PowerPoint (opening slides and Clue of the Day motions)
	Worship music lyrics or slides
	Skit props and supplies

WELCOME

Director: Welcome back to ***The Great Investigation***! Are you ready to solve another case?

Let's review what we've learned by going through our Clues of the Day. Make sure you do the motions with me.

We know that God loves us and wants a relationship with us so. . .

God	**seeks**	**us.**
(Point to sky)	*(Hand on forehead as if to salute, then move head back and forth)*	*(Point both thumbs to self)*

We also know that God wants everyone to have a relationship with Him, so for all who put their trust in Him. . .

God	**saves**	**us.**
(Point to sky)	*(Put fists together as if in handcuffs, then pull fists away as if breaking free from the handcuffs)*	*(Point both thumbs to self)*

Get ready to find out another clue today to help us learn God's plan.

WORSHIP MUSIC

If possible, provide the lyrics through PowerPoint or posted where everyone can see them.

SKIT

☑	SUPPLIES
	File folder
	Printout of "The Case of the Broken Jar" (Lesson 3, Resource 1)
	Printout of "God Leads Us" (Lesson 2, Resource 2)
	Large dog bowl
	Large dog bone

☑	
	Water
	Green food coloring
	Test tube (or small clear jar)
	Bloodhound barking sound effect (PowerPoint slide)
	Two pairs of gloves
	Plastic zip-top bag

PREPARATION

1. Glue or tape Resource 1 printout on the file folder or write "The Case of the Broken Jar" on the front of the file folder.
2. Print out Resource 2 or write "God leads us" on a piece of paper.
3. Fold Resource 2 three times and place it in a plastic zip-top bag. Make sure it is sealed tight.
4. Place the file folder on the desk.
5. Pour water into the dog dish. Put a few drops of green food coloring in the water and mix. Add enough food coloring for the water to be noticeably green from a distance.
6. Place the bag in the bottom of the water in the dog bowl. If it floats to the top, place a small rock in it to weigh it down.
7. Place the test tube in a desk drawer.

CHARACTERS

Chief Investigator Emery King, Detective Snoop Tracy, Sherlock (unseen bloodhound)

Emery is wearing a hat and a trench coat over dress pants and a shirt. Snoop is wearing a similar coat and a bright shirt (Hawaiian type) and jeans (or shorts). Snoop is also wearing a watch.

DIALOGUE

Snoop: ***(Enters the office and throws his coat over a chair.)*** Emery. ***(Louder)*** Emery. Are you here? ***(Pauses and listens.)*** Hmm… not like him to be late!

(Snoop looks around to see if anyone is watching him. He snoops around the desk, picking up the file folder.)

Snoop: This must be our case for the day, "The Case of the Broken Jar." Interesting. Who broke the jar? And what kind of jar was it? I wish Emery would get here so we can start on the case.

(After a moment, he plops down into a chair and checks the time on his watch.)

Snoop: I hope Emery is ok. He's never late. Perhaps he's sick with the flu? Bitten by a dog? ***(He looks worried.)*** Oh! Speaking of dogs, I should check Sherlock's water. If Emery hasn't been in yet, Sherlock may be really thirsty.

Snoop: ***(Picks up the bowl.)*** What is in this bowl? ***(Looks curious.)***

(Emery enters the room flustered.)

Emery: Good morning, Snoop. My apologies for being so late. My car broke down and I had to wait on a cab. ***(Takes off his coat and hat and hangs it on the rack.)***

Snoop: Emery, I've got something to tell you. Something has happened. I don't think you are going to like this. It's really weird… It might be the weirdest thing that has happened so far.

Emery: Snoop! What is it?

Snoop: I went to fill Sherlock's water bowl. I was about to pick up the bowl to put water in it when I noticed there was already water in it. Except it was. . . green! Not just any kind of green! Like a pond with algae floating on it. That kind of green.

Emery: ***(Looks in the dish, perplexed.)*** That is strange!

Snoop: I know. What could it be? Did Sherlock eat some grass and then slurp up water and it made the water turn green? Did someone boil broccoli and put the juice in there? Space aliens turned it green?

Emery: Really? Little space aliens? Boiled broccoli? There has to be a logical explanation for his water turning green. Let's get a sample to the lab to analyze and tell us what is in the water. I think I've got a sterilized test tube around here somewhere. ***(Looks for and finds the test tube. Scoops up some water in the test tube, then holds it up to the light to show the green water.)***

Emery: Sherlock, are you back there? Did you drink any of this water?

(Cue bloodhound bark.)

Snoop: I take that for no. Good thing. We won't have to take him to the vet. He might have had to get a shot. Or surgery. Or stay overnight for observation. And we don't have time for that. We've got to find the felon tampering with the evidence. Wait, the felon turned the water green but did they do anything to our case file? Is it ok?

(Emery walks to the desk and picks up the file. He opens it and then shakes it.)

Emery: Empty. The evidence has disappeared.

(Emery and Snoop look at each other stunned.)

Snoop: Maybe it fell out of the file folder. Or maybe the felon hid it. ***(Looks around the floor, then looks down at the bowl.)***

Snoop: Hey, something is in the water. We couldn't see it before because of all the green. I'll get it out.

Emery: Snoop, don't touch the water.

Snoop: I've learned my lesson on that. I am getting gloves. ***(Pulls on his gloves, then cautiously lifts a small plastic bag out of the water. He opens the bag and pulls out a piece of paper.)***

Emery: Careful. We don't want the paper to get wet.

Snoop: Right. Boss, maybe you should handle it with dry gloves.

Emery: Excellent idea, Snoop. Good work. ***(Puts on gloves, unfolds the paper, and reads it.)*** It says "God leads us."

Snoop: God leads us? Where? Like the game Follow the Leader?

Emery: I'm not sure.

Snoop: How are we going to find out where we are being led? Isn't that something we should know?

Emery: Yes. Let's get this liquid to the lab and see if we can find out where it came from. In the meantime, we'll start working on The Case of the Broken Jar. If we solve the case, we'll know where we are being led. I've got a hunch that the broken jar might help us understand. The big question is who broke this jar? And why did they break it? ***(Looks away deep in thought.)***

Snoop: Uh, boss, I'll get this to the lab right away.

(Emery shakes his head as if coming out of a fog. Snoop heads out the door with the evidence.)

Emery: So many unanswered questions ***(shakes his head)***. First, we find out God seeks us and then that He saves us. But leads us? Hm. We must find the answer to this one.

(Emery puts on his coat and hat and leaves. As he leaves, the sound of a dog barking [cue bloodhound barking] is heard by the audience.)

CLUE OF THE DAY

Director: Today our Clue of the Day is "God leads us." Please say that with me ***(pause and repeat it with the audience)***. Make sure you listen closely today and when someone asks what the Clue of the Day is, you are going to say… ***(Pause for kids to shout the clue.)*** God leads us! Detectives Snoop and Emery are hot on the trail to find out where God is leading them. They've learned that God seeks them, God saves them, and today, they will learn that God leads them.

The Bible says in Psalm 27:14, "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD."

I wonder what waiting for the Lord has to do with Him leading us. Pay close attention today as you find clues and be curious about what waiting for the Lord means.

Let's learn some motions to help us remember today's clue ***(Use slides from Lesson 3 PowerPoint)***: Remember, God wants us to follow Him and to wait on Him as He leads us.

God	**leads**	**us.**
(Point to sky)	*(Hold left hand out palm up. With right hand, walk two fingers across the left palm.)*	*(Point both thumbs to self)*

OFFERING

(Tell the children how you will receive the offering and discuss the offering project. See the information provided for the Kids Reaching Kids offering project.)

Okay all you detectives, let's get searching for more clues as we track down God's plan. ***(Dismiss the children by groups to their scheduled activity rotation. Make sure each group knows where they will be going.)***

ACTIVITY ROTATION

EVIDENCE VAULT

Bible Story: Judges 6:36-40, 7:1-25
Gideon is led by God

☑	SUPPLIES The following items can be reused from Lesson 2:
	Trumpet
	Footprints
	Evidence tent numbers
	Yellow police tape (or rope)
	Small notebooks and pencil for each child
	A Bible

☑	SUPPLIES For Lesson 3 only:
	Wool fleece (Buy fabric or cut a large, square piece from a white/tan fleece jacket, pillow, or other like item.)
	Bowl (use pottery or wood)
	Water
	2 pottery jars (see Pinterest board for ideas)
	Orange tissue paper or orange construction paper
	Blue plastic or paper
	PowerPoint slides (for Clue of the Day motions)

PREPARATION

- Read all the instructions before the children arrive.
- Designate an area for the evidence scene. This area should be large enough for the children to gather around the edges to examine the scene. A different area than the one for Lesson 2 might be used. Each day's evidence scene can remain for children to remember the stories.
- Prepare the notebooks for the children who are new today. Each child will have a notebook and a pencil to draw the evidence scene or write down clues. The design (Lesson 1, Resource 4) can be cut out and glued on the notebooks (optional).
- Set up the evidence scene in the designated area. Surround the area with police tape or rope.

EVIDENCE SET UP

Damp Wool Fleece and Bowl of Water (Evidence 1)

- Put down protective floor covering. Cut the wool fleece into two pieces. Dip one of the pieces in the water and squeeze out the excess water so it is damp. Place the damp wool fleece on the ground with evidence sign #1. Put the bowl of water beside it.

Dry Wool Fleece (Evidence 2)

- Place the dry wool fleece on the ground. Pour water on the ground around it. Place the evidence sign #2 beside it.

Footprints (Evidence 3)

- Place the footprints walking away from the evidence area. Evidence #3 sign should be placed next to one of the footprints.

Pond (Evidence 4)

- Cut out the blue plastic or paper to resemble a pond. Place it on the ground with sign #4 beside it.

Trumpet (Evidence 5)

- Place the trumpet on the ground on the other side of the evidence area from the water and the fleece. Place evidence sign #5 beside it.

Jar (Evidence 6)

- Crush the orange tissue paper or construction paper and place it in one of the pottery jars to simulate the flame of a torch. Place the jar beside the trumpet and put evidence sign #6 beside it.

Broken Jar (Evidence 7)

- Break the other pottery jar into a few pieces. Place the broken pieces of the pottery jar a few feet away from the trumpet and other pottery jar. Place evidence sign #7 next to it.

STORY

You may use the following script to tell the story.

Say, **Welcome back to the Evidence Vault. Today we are going to solve the Case of the Broken Jar.**

Get out your notebooks and pencils from your detective kit *(or hand them out if they do not have the kits. If any child is new, make sure they have a notebook and pencil from Day 1.)*

I'm going to give you a few moments to look at the evidence. Make sure you don't touch anything. Stay behind the tape/rope. As you look at the evidence, you might be curious about what happened. Feel free to draw or write what you think might have happened in your notebook.

(Let the children move around the room looking at the evidence. Give them enough time to see each item.)

Let's all take a seat while I go through the evidence and we discover what happened. As we look at the evidence, we'll also look for clues in the Bible. The book of Judges chapters 6:36-40 and 7 may give us some clues. *(Show the children where the book of Judges is in the Bible.)*

The first piece of evidence is this wool fleece. It is damp, but the ground around it is dry. And there is a bowl full of water next to it. I wonder why? What do you think? Do you have any ideas? *(Give the children an opportunity to respond.)*

There was a man named Gideon who followed God. He was called by God to help save the people of Israel from their enemies. Gideon wasn't sure about this situation. Was this really what God wanted from him? So, he asked God:

"If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said."

Do you know what dew is? It's tiny droplets of water that sometimes form on the grass overnight. You might have seen it on plants early in the morning.

Guess what? Gideon went to bed, and when he got up the next morning, he found the fleece was wet. He squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew. The water filled a bowl.

Let's look at evidence #2. Here is a dry piece of fleece, but there is water around it on the ground.

Gideon wanted to be absolutely sure that he was understanding God. So, he said to God:

"Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew."

Again, Gideon went to bed, and the next morning, he found that God did exactly as he had asked. The fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

Do you think that Gideon was convinced that God was asking him to save Israel? It appears that he was.

Let's look at evidence #3. There are footprints leading away from this area.

Gideon and all his men had camped out in an area with the enemy, Midian, camped north of them. God said to Gideon: "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.' Now announce to the army, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead."

These footprints indicate men leaving the army. How many men do you think left? *(Give the children an opportunity to guess.)*

22,000 men left that day. That is a lot of men. Guess what? Only 10,000 stayed. Over twice as many made the decision to leave as those who made the decision to stay. I wonder what Gideon was thinking when he saw so many men in his army leave.

Let's look at the next piece of evidence, #4.

This looks like a water source. Maybe a pond or a creek?

The LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go: but if I say, ‘this one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

Gideon did exactly as the LORD had told him, even if it might not have made a lot of sense to him.

When Gideon and the men got to the water, God told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.”

Can you show me how a dog laps up water with its tongue? Good job! So, some of the men drank from the water that way, cupping their hands with water in it and lapping it up like a dog. Others knelt down to drink directly from the water.

How many do you think drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs? *(Give the children an opportunity to guess.)*

300. That’s it. Only 300 out of 10,000. *(Try to think of something the children would relate to understand the numbers. Example: number of people who go to your church, number of people in your town, etc.)*

Then God told Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped, I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.”

Gideon sent the rest of the men home, keeping only the 300. Gideon had to really trust God. He had an army of 32,000 men. Now he only had 300.

Let’s look at the next piece of evidence, #5. It appears to be a trumpet. What do you think a trumpet has to do with saving the Israelites from their enemies?

Gideon gathered the 300 men and divided them into three groups of 100 each. He gave each one a trumpet.

Evidence #6 is a jar with fire inside it. These were covered torches. No one could see the fire inside the jars. Gideon also gave each person in his army one of these.

Then, Gideon told them, “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the LORD and for Gideon.”

This last piece of evidence, #7, is a broken jar.

Gideon led his 100 men in his company—remember they were divided into three companies—to the edge of the camp of the Midianites. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. All three of the companies blew their trumpets, just like Gideon had instructed, and smashed the jars. When the jars were smashed, the torches lit up the night. They held onto the torches with their left hands, and

with their right hands, they held the trumpets. They shouted "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!"

What do you think the Midianites did? They were scared. They ran, crying out as they fled.

God had done what He said He would do.

Do you think it was hard for Gideon to trust God? Gideon had to give up his own ideas of how this battle would be won. He thought that he needed a large army. God had other plans that were much better than Gideon's.

Gideon just had to follow God's leading. He had to do what God told him to do.

Do you remember what our clue is today?

God	**leads**	**us.**
(Point to sky)	*(Hold left hand out palm up. With right hand, walk two fingers across the left palm.)*	*(Point both thumbs to self)*

Just like God led Gideon, He also leads us. How do you think God leads us? *(Give the children an opportunity to think about this and answer.)*

The Bible is one way He leads us. When we read His Word, we learn more about Him and how He wants us to live.

When Jesus was here on earth, He often taught people and those teachings are in the Gospels that are in the Bible. For instance, He taught us to love our neighbor and how to pray. He taught us to seek God first and to pray for our enemies.

God has many ways that He leads us: listening and singing worship music, obeying our parents, and even paying attention this week during VBS.

Our Bible verse today, Psalm 27:14, says "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." Part of God leading us is waiting for Him; to not rush and do what we want but rather think about what God wants us to do.

He loves each one of us. He has sought each one of us out and wants to have a relationship with us. He saves us when we give our lives to Him. And then He leads us, helping us to know how to love Him and to love others.

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for leading us. Sometimes it isn't easy to do what You want us to do. Help us when it is hard. Amen.

ACTIVITY ROTATION

INVESTIGATION LAB

There is one group activity.

Say, **Welcome to the Investigation Lab. Detectives are often looking for evidence that has been left behind. They call that trace evidence. We've learned about fingerprints and how to dust for them. We've learned about fiber and hair left behind. We've even learned about unknown powders and tests to find out what those powders are. Today, we are going to talk about unknown liquids.**

In the Evidence Vault today, you saw (or will see) some liquid on the ground. A detective would collect the liquid and take it to the lab for testing to see what they could find out about this evidence left behind. They would have to be very careful collecting the liquid, putting it in a clean container with a top.

Let's see what we can find about unknown liquids.

GROUP LAB — UNKNOWN LIQUIDS

☑	SUPPLIES
	Head of red cabbage or 2-3 beets
	Pan
	Distilled water (if possible)
	Tap water

☑	
	Clear soda pop
	White vinegar
	Ammonia* (Warning: toxic. Only adults should handle this.)
	Four clear cups

*Alternative: A baking soda and water mixture can be used instead of ammonia. It does not change as dramatically as ammonia but is a safer choice. Stir two spoonfuls of baking soda into a cup of water to make the mixture.

PREPARATION

- Boil about ¼ of the head of red cabbage or all the beets in a pan full of water. If possible, use distilled water for boiling. The experiment will work without distilled water but the colors will be a bit different.
- Let the cabbage set until the water has turned a dark purplish color.
- Pour the tap water, pop, vinegar, and ammonia into their own clear cups, about ¾ full.
- Cue the PowerPoint slide.

Note: Red cabbage juice can be purchased online from science supply stores.

DISCUSSION

Say, We are going to analyze these four cups of clear liquid and try to find out what is in each one.

I am going to pour this purplish liquid into each of the cups. The liquid is red cabbage juice. Depending on what color the clear liquid turns when the cabbage juice mixes with it, we can know something about the liquid.

- If the liquid turns green, then the liquid is ammonia, which is poisonous.
- If the liquid turns pink, it is vinegar.
- If it turns light pink, it is soda pop.
- If it stays basically the same, it is water. Let's see what happens.

(Pour the cabbage juice in each container of liquid and have the children guess what the liquid is.)

Each of these liquids was different. They looked the same but when the cabbage juice was poured into each one, their difference showed.

When we say yes to Jesus and put our trust in Him, we are new creations. The liquids became a new color when we poured the red cabbage juice in. We don't have red cabbage juice poured in us, but we do have Jesus working in our lives. As we follow Him, He helps us to become the person He intends us to be.

DETECTIVE CASE SOLVING KIT

There are no new items for the kit today.

ACTIVITY ROTATION

DISCOVERY SHOP

GIDEON'S TRUMPET

☑	SUPPLIES
	Copy of trumpet (Lesson 3, Resource 3) for each child
	Crayons or markers
	Clear tape
	Scissors

PREPARATION

- Make copies of the trumpet.
- Create an example of a finished trumpet.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Color the trumpet with crayons or markers.
2. Cut out the trumpet.
3. Tape together the edges to complete the trumpet.

DISCUSSION

Remind the children that Gideon's army obeyed God's leading and blew the trumpets when He told them. ***(If they have not been to the Evidence Vault, tell them to pay attention to the trumpet in the story.)***

(If time permits, review the Clue of the Day and the memory verse.)

Do you remember the Clue of the Day? Let's say it together with the motions:

God	**leads**	**us.**
(Point to sky)	*(Hold left hand out palm up. With right hand, walk two fingers across the left palm.)*	*(Point both thumbs to self)*

Let's see if we can remember the memory verse. We'll put a few motions with it to help us.

"Wait for the Lord *(Hold out hand as if to stop someone)*	**be strong** *(Flex arm muscle)*	**and take heart** *(Make a heart with two hands)*
and wait *(Hold out hand as if to stop someone)*	**for the LORD."** *(Point to the sky)*	**Psalm 27:14**

ACTIVITY ROTATION

CONFIDENTIAL CAFÉ

GIDEON'S TORCH

The children will decorate pretzel sticks to represent the torches in the Bible story or decorate cupcakes. If you do not have these resources, enjoy a snack together that is related to the story and discuss the questions below. Learn today's memory verse.

☑	**SUPPLIES** For each child:◊
	Lesson Three PowerPoint slides (memory verse motions)
	5-7 pretzel sticks or 1 cupcake◊
	1 red, orange, and yellow colored Fruit-Roll-up◊ or yellow and orange frosting and a spiral tip

Alternative: Make torches with ice cream cones and yellow and orange frosting or ice cream colored yellow and orange.

PREPARATION

- Cut the Fruit-Roll-ups into smaller strips (about 2 inches long or 50 mm long) or lightly fold both frostings in a bowl and then put it into a frosting bag.

INSTRUCTIONS

If the children have heard the story, review it as you are "building" your snack. For example, discuss how the pretzel stick represents a clay jar and ask how the jar was a part of our story. The red, yellow, and orange colored Fruit-Roll-ups represent the fire from the torch inside the jar. If not, tell them that they will hear a story later about the torch that was revealed when a jar broke.

DISCUSSION

You may use the following script.

Say, **Today, as we are uncovering clues to solve the Case of the Broken Jar, we are going to make a snack that reminds us of something that is in the Bible story. On the plate, place your pretzel sticks. Now, wrap the strips of Fruit-roll-up around the top of your pretzel stick. Try to make the layers uneven and with spikes coming up out of it so that it looks like fire. Use as about 2 or 3 strips on each torch if you want.**

Alternative: Say, **Today, as we are uncovering clues to solve the Case of the Broken Jar, we are going to make a snack that reminds us of something that is in the Bible story. On the plate, place your cupcake. Now, put frosting on it in a spiral shape. These two colors remind us of fire.**

ACTIVITY ROTATION

FIELD ADVENTURES

BLINDFOLDED OBSTACLE COURSE

☑	SUPPLIES
	Blindfolds (bandanas, strips of fabric, etc.)
	Items for an obstacle course. Some examples: orange cones to run around, crawl through tubes (or use the box from Lesson 2), baby pool of water to jump over or in, pole to jump over, rope to walk along

PREPARATION

- Set up an obstacle course. If you are doing this activity outside and it is a warm day, consider making it a water-related course.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide the children into teams of three.
2. One person from each team volunteers to be blindfolded.
3. The blindfolded person must work through the obstacle course; however, they must depend on the other two teammates for help. One teammate is allowed to talk. The other teammate is allowed to hold onto the blindfolded person's arm only.
4. If time permits, switch places so that everyone has a chance to do all three positions.

DISCUSSION

Say, **Was it hard to be blindfolded and be led through the course? What was harder: to listen to instructions or to be moved along by someone holding your arm? Did you have to trust the people leading you?**

Our Clue of the Day is God leads us. Trust is an important part of Him leading us. When we trust Him, we can obey Him and listen to Him.

STRINGS ATTACHED — MEMORY VERSE GAME

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." Psalm 27:14

SUPPLIES

- None

PREPARATION

- None

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide the children into teams.
2. Have the children work with their teammates to makeup motions to the memory verse. For instance, the word "secret" could be someone pretending to tell a secret with their hands cupped around their mouth.
3. If time permits, have each group lead the other groups in doing the motions.

CLOSING

☑	SUPPLIES
	File folder for The Case of the Broken Jar (from opening skit)
	PowerPoint slides (Clue of the Day and memory verse motions)

PREPARATION

- None

DIALOGUE

Emery: Welcome back to our detective agency. We've been solving the Case of the Broken Jar ***(holds up the folder from the opening skit).*** The big question is. . . who broke the jar? And why was it broken?

Snoop: I bet these sleuthy investigators have the answer to those questions. They've been great investigators and have solved our other two cases.

Emery: Yes, they have. I'm quite impressed with their skills.

Snoop: And what about me?

Emery: What about you?

Snoop: You know. . .

Emery: I don't know.

Snoop: Do you think I'm a sleuthy investigator as well?

Emery: Oh, I see. Yes, Snoop Tracy, you are an excellent investigator.

(Snoop smiles big.)

Emery: I'm sorry if I haven't told you that before. I find you extremely helpful in our endeavors. In fact, you could be chief investigator someday. But you might have to lose that shirt ***(makes a face)***.

Snoop: ***(Scowls)*** This shirt is my thing, remember?

Emery: Ah, yes. Now let's get back to our case. Before we get to the broken jar, let's see if they remember the Clue of the Day. Who knows the Clue of the Day?

(Choose a child to come forward and lead the group in saying the Clue of the Day using the motions.)

God	leads	us.
(Point to sky)	*(Hold left hand out palm up. With right hand, walk two fingers across the left palm.)*	*(Point both thumbs to self)*

Snoop: Good job, sleuthy investigators.

Emery: Very good. Now who might know our memory verse today?

(Choose a child to come forward and say the verse. Encourage the children to do the motions while the verse is being quoted. If the child forgets the words, invite everyone to say it together. Thank the child for volunteering)

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." Psalm 27:14

Emery: Now, let's see if we can solve the Case of the Broken Jar.

Snoop: I've been waiting for this!

Emery: ***(Turns to the children)*** Who broke the jar? ***(Choose a child to answer the question.)*** That's right. Gideon's army.

Snoop: 300 in that army!

Emery: Why did they break it? ***(Choose a child to answer the question.)*** Terrific! When it was broken, it revealed a torch, a light. The enemy was scared by the trumpets and the torches. God led them in a way that they would not have guessed.

Snoop: Guess what? God still leads us today.

Emery: That's right. He wants a relationship with each one of us. He seeks us. He saves us. And then He leads us. We now know more about God's plan for us.

Snoop: Uh, boss.

Emery: Yes, Snoop.

Snoop: What happened with the green liquid in Sherlock's dog bowl? Did the lab get back to you on that?

Emery: They did. It appears that the liquid was water.

Snoop: How did it turn green?

Emery: That is a mystery. No one knows.

Snoop: That's too bad. I was hoping we would find the felon. . . tampered files again. A third time!

Emery: Yes, and in really odd ways. One clue had a bite mark out of it. Another clue was covered in dog hair. And now the dog's water has turned green with the clue buried under the water.

Snoop: Someone is really messing with these clues. Are you sure it isn't a space alien? I mean think about it. . . green water. Sounds like a space alien to me! ***(Puts his fingers on his head like antennae and does a computer-type voice.)***

Emery: No alien.

Snoop: I'm pretty sure it is an alien.

Emery: Snoop. There is no alien.

Snoop: Alright boss. But I still think there might be. . .

Emery: ***(cuts him off)*** Tomorrow, we will try to solve the Case of the Missing Grain Bag. I hope all of you detectives will be back tomorrow to help us solve our last case. And perhaps we will also catch the felon who is messing with our case files. Regardless, when we solve the case, I am confident that we will learn another part of God's plan for us. See you tomorrow as we continue to track down God's plan.