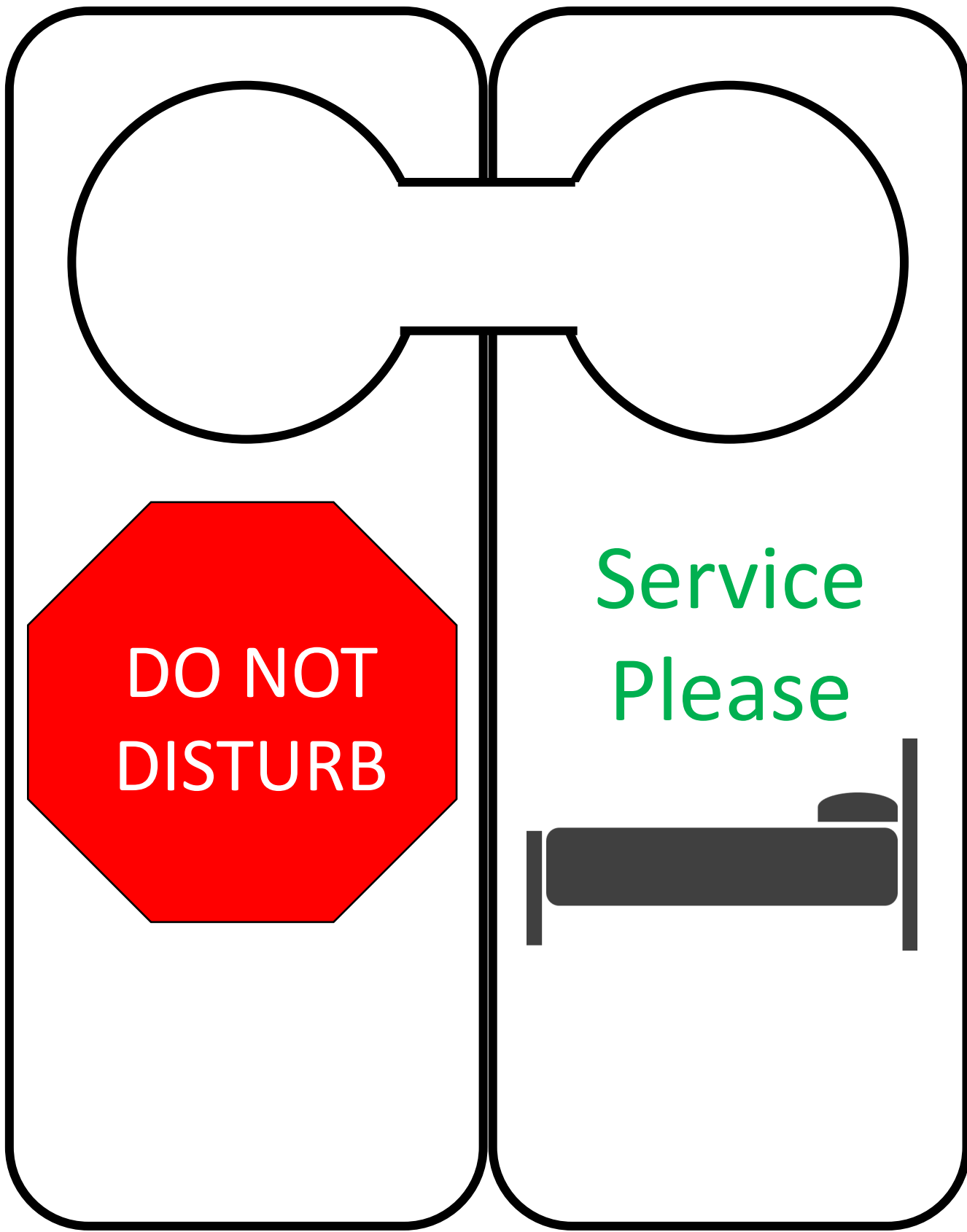


Skit for Whole Group

Gideon at the River

Checklist

- ☐ hotel door sign
- ☐ costume helmet
- ☐ nametags
- ☐ jar (plastic water pitcher)
- ☐ flashlight
- ☐ woolly fabric
- ☐ blue tablecloth, blanket, or sheet
- ☐ toy trumpet
- ☐ several paper bags with “lunch”
written on them (stuffed with
crumpled paper to look full)



Service
Please





Story:	Gideon at the River
Focus:	God is always protecting us, even though we can't see Him.
Object:	hotel door sign
Intro:	Have any of you ever stayed in a hotel? Did you see one of these signs on the door? Your parents turn it to "Service Please" if they want housekeeping to come and clean the room, and to "Do Not Disturb" if they want to sleep in. Today we're going to learn about how God's people were doing the same thing to Him, telling Him service please and do not disturb.
Skit (all ages):	
Volunteers:	Gideon, bully wearing helmet, helper with nametag
Setup:	Have blue tablecloth, sheet, or blanket spread out over to side. Choose one child ahead of time to be the helper and tell them when everyone else kneels down to drink water, to stay standing and bend over to pretend to cup some with their hands. Have paper bags with "lunch" written on them to hand to children in front row.
bully takes lunch bags from kids	God had chosen Gideon to be His special leader to rescue the Israelites from the bullies who were taking their food.
wool	We learned how God made dew fall only on the sheepskin and then only around it to show Gideon that His message was true.
have all children stand up	Everyone was so excited that they all wanted to follow Gideon and be part of his team. But God wanted to show the Israelites that He was the one protecting them, even though they couldn't see Him.
tap half of childrens' heads to sit down	Gideon was going to take a huge group of people with him when he went to stand up to the bullies. God told Gideon to make his group smaller.
remaining kids walk to blue cloth	Gideon's group was still too big. So, God told Gideon to bring everyone left to the river to drink water.
children kneel, helper stands to drink	Most of the team kneeled down to drink water. Only a small number drank it from their hands, standing up. God told Gideon those were the best helpers.
hand flashlight and jar to helper and trumpet to Gideon	Gideon snuck up behind the bullies. He had lights hidden in jars and trumpets. When he took them out the bullies got so scared they ran away. Gideon didn't need to be strong or tough. He just needed to have God on his side.
gentleness fruit	When the Israelites turned back to God with gentle hearts, God protected them. Sometimes someone at school or the playground might be mean to you. You will want to push them or hit them to get them to go away. But pray to God and ask Him for help. He can help you find a cleverer solution to your problem. He might give you an idea you never would have thought of otherwise.

Preschool

Gideon at the River

Checklist

- ☐ modeling dough
- ☐ toy shakers (like maracas)

Coloring Page:

Ask children if other kids at the playground (or preschool or their older siblings) ever play rough. What can they do to play gently together? (pray for God's help, ask a parent or teacher for help, say, "No, thank you," suggest another game). Encourage them to draw a picture of themselves playing gently with others.

Modeling Dough:

Encourage children to make something from the story, like a jar, a trumpet or a torch.

Game:

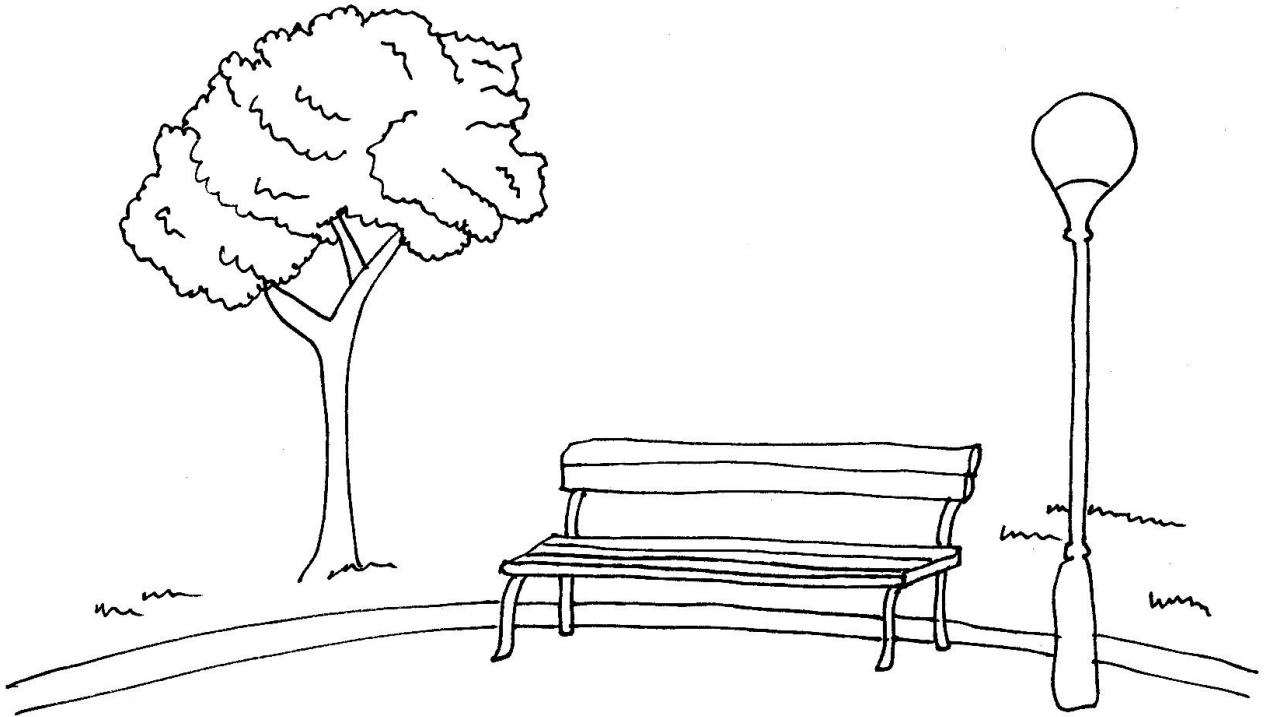
Give children shakers and ask them to keep them very still. Turn out lights and have everyone tiptoe around room while you ask them in a whisper, "Can you see God?" several times. Turn on the lights and have everyone call out, "God protects me!" while shaking their shakers. Remind children that God is always protecting them, even when they can't see Him. Play several rounds.

Song:

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Gideon at the River

Name: _____



I can play gently with others.



He's Got the Whole World in His Hands



He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole wild world in His hands
He's got the whole wild world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the little bitty baby in His hands
He's got the little bitty baby in his hands
He's got the little bitty baby in his hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got you and me brother in His hands
He's got you and me sister in His hands
He's got you and me brother in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got everybody here in His hands
He's got everybody here in His hands
He's got everybody here in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands