

## RECESS

### Scripture: 1 John 3:1

For many of us, Recess is one of the best parts of the school day. We get to play kickball, dodgeball, hopscotch, or race and tag our friends around the play area. Recess helps us to stay active so we can grow strong, but it also gives us a chance to grow in our relationships. The stories of Gideon, Ruth, and Samuel present unexpected ways God can help us grow.

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you for helping us grow stronger. Help us to trust you, and to grow in strength and wisdom every day. Thank you for helping me belong, even when I feel alone. I belong in your family, and I can welcome others to join in. Thank you for answering our prayers. You hear us when we cry out to you, and even when the answer is not the answer we expected, help us to trust that you give us what is best. Thank you for being with us, for remembering us, and for loving us.

**Gideon** ~ God helps me grow stronger. Judges 6 & 7

Why didn't God allow all 32,000 men to fight in Gideon's army?  
What can you do to trust God's strength?

**Ruth & Naomi** ~ God helps me belong. Ruth 1

What did Naomi decide to do?  
What kind of things make you feel like you don't belong?

**Hannah & Samuel** ~ God answers prayer. 1 Samuel 1

How did God answer Hannah's prayer?  
Do you trust that God hears your prayers? Why or why not?

**Samuel** ~ God tells me what is true. 1 Samuel 2:1-20

How did Samuel obey God?  
How can we tell the difference between what is true and what is untrue?

**Samuel & Saul** ~ God can use anything I give. 1 Samuel 9, 10:1

Why did Samuel anoint Saul as the king?  
What do you have, gifts or talents or special treasures, that God has given you?