



APRIL 27, 2025

DEBORAH LED ISRAEL

JUDGES 4-5

CHRIST CONNECTION

God sent Jesus to reign victorious over sin and death.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 2:24

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Judges 4 and 5 reveal God's heart for delivering His people despite the consequences their sin deserved. Again, the Israelites sinned by committing evil in the sight of the Lord. Even still, God provided victory for His people against Sisera and his army.

How did Deborah's leadership bring glory to God? Why is Jesus worthy of all glory? In the prophecy she shared with Barak, Deborah revealed that God had already promised the Israelites victory in battle. Deborah rallied Barak to lead Israel's army against Sisera. Even though Barak was hesitant to go without Deborah, he eventually led 10,000 troops to fight the enemy army. The Lord threw Sisera's army into confusion, demonstrating His promised power. Forced to flee, Sisera died in the tent of an unsuspecting woman named Jael. On that day, Deborah and Barak praised God in song for the victory He alone accomplished.

Deborah and Barak's song of praise revealed a right response to God's rescue: worship. God was glorified because He alone provided rescue. Likewise, Jesus alone is worthy of worship for how He has provided the only way for sinners to be saved. God has exalted Jesus above every name because of His humble obedience to die on the cross for sinful people. One day, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord.

We, like the wayward Israelites, are sinners who deserve punishment for our sins against God. Yet, by choosing to put our faith in Christ and in His perfect obedience and finished work on the cross, we receive the gift of everlasting life in place of the condemnation we deserve. In His goodness, God made the way for us to receive the grace we did not earn and allowed for His Son to bear the consequences our sin deserves. May it likewise be true for the boys and girls who hear this story and place their faith in our greatest deliverer — Jesus.

WELCOME



Connect with kids
as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a class!

MEMORY VERSE

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

It's Bible Bucks Day!

Throughout the morning, our Bible Bucks Leaders will be going from room to room to give kids the opportunity to recite any memorized Bible verse to earn Bible Bucks.

Remind kids that we memorize God's Word so that we can have His words with us at all times. The more we read God's Word and spend time with Him, the more we learn about Him!





DEBORAH LED ISRAEL

God's people again did what was evil in God's eyes. As a consequence, they were captured by King Jabin and Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army.

After 20 years of being treated badly by King Jabin, the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help. God sent Deborah, a prophetess and judge, to lead and help them.

Deborah would sit under a palm tree and listen to the people's problems. She called for Barak, a leader of Israel's army, and said, "Hasn't God already commanded you to take the army to fight against Sisera and King Jabin's army? He has promised to hand you the victory."

Barak said, "I will go if you go with me. If you don't go with me, I won't go."

"I will gladly go with you," Deborah replied. "But because you failed to obey this command on your own, you will receive no honor for the victory. The commander Sisera will be defeated by a woman instead of by you."

Barak and Deborah gathered ten thousand men from Israel and attacked Sisera and his troops. The Lord caused the enemy army to panic, and all of them were defeated except for Sisera, who ran away in fear.

Sisera fled to the tent of a friend named Heber. Heber was not there, but his wife Jael (JAY uhl) came out and greeted him. She gave him milk and covered him with a blanket so that he could sleep. Sisera thought he was safe, but he was not. Jael picked up a tent peg and killed Sisera with it. The words of Deborah came true: a woman defeated Sisera instead of Barak. Deborah and Barak sang a song of praise to God for the victory: "Lord, may all your enemies perish just as Sisera did. But may those who love God be like the rising of the sun in its strength."

The Israelites had peace for the next 40 years.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God used Deborah to lead Israel in victory over their enemies, and God received the glory. **God sent Jesus to reign victorious over sin and death.** Jesus is worthy of all honor, glory, and power (Revelation 4:11).

K12 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with younger kids after Large Group.

MAIN ACTIVITY

Divide your class into four groups and give each group one of the provided cardboard boxes and five plastic balls.

Instruct kids to put the balls into the box, then give one kid the box and have them move it around, trying to get each ball to fall through the hole in the bottom of the box.

Repeat until every kid has had a chance to do the activity.

CONNECT THE DOTS



As you were working to get the balls to fall out of the box, they went in many different directions. In today's story, we saw how God caused a panic in the armies who fought against the Israelites. Much like the crazy chaos the plastic balls displayed, the enemy armies were thrown into confusion. God did this to bring victory for His people and rescue them from oppression.

CONNECT THE DOTS



The Bible is the Word of God! It's important for us to learn from and about the Bible. We can do that by reviewing what we know about the Bible, testing our knowledge of it, and working with others to remind ourselves what's true about it.

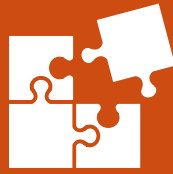
BONUS ACTIVITY

Play Bible Battleship as a class! Divide your class into two teams and have everyone sit in a chair. Taking turns, each team will be asked a question about the Bible.

If they get the answer correct, they can choose to either sink a player on the opposing team (meaning they must sit on the floor and can't help their team answer questions) or save a player from their team (meaning if they have a player sitting on the floor, they can bring them back into the game).

The first team to sink all the opposing players wins!

345 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with older kids after Large Group.

MAIN ACTIVITY

Take the cards labeled “Chance?” and place them on the whiteboard using tape. Divide kids into teams (depending on how big the group is, you can create three or four teams).

One at a time, teams will be given a question to review the lessons from this month. If the team gets the answer correct, they can choose to either gain a point for their team or take a “Chance” card. The chance cards could be anything from gaining multiple points, losing points, switching points with another team, and more.

Continue taking turns and keeping track of points until all the questions are answered. Feel free to add more questions at the end if needed!

CONNECT THE DOTS



We’ve learned a lot about the first judges and the Easter story this month! They might seem like very different lessons, but they have one big thing in common: God’s rescue plan for His people. In the Old Testament, God sent judges to help lead His people and help them defeat their enemies. Later, God sent Jesus to reign victorious over sin and death. God is worthy of all honor, glory, and power!

CONNECT THE DOTS



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BONUS ACTIVITY

Take the provided buzzer and set it in the middle of one of the tables in your classroom. Split your class in half and have kids form two lines on opposite sides of the buzzer.

One at a time, the kid at the front of each line will step up in front of the buzzer. Once both kids are ready, name a book of the Bible. Kids will race to press the buzzer and say whether the book is in the Old Testament or the New Testament.

The first kid to push the buzzer gets to answer either Old or New Testament. If they get it right, they win the face-off and get back in line, while the other kid is out. If they get the answer wrong, the opposing kid gets to answer. Keep playing until one kid wins!

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your class to discuss.

1. Do you think following God means facing hard times? Why?
2. Who received the praise and glory for Israel's victory over their enemies?
3. Does God want to include us in His plans? Why? Who can God use for His purposes?
4. Deborah and Barak believed God would give them victory, and they showed their trust in God by going to battle. How can we show we trust God?
5. If we sin, but then turn to God in repentance, will He forgive us? Why?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Go to the Leader Folder on one of the TVs in your classroom. *(Hit the back button until you see it.)* There, you'll find games and activities to do with your class!



BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!