



APRIL 27, 2025

# DEBORAH LED ISRAEL

JUDGES 4-5

## CHRIST CONNECTION

God used Deborah to lead His people and help them win battles. God sent His Son, Jesus, to win the battle against sin by dying on the cross and being raised back to life.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

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

## MEMORY VERSE

By his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

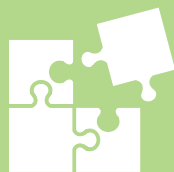
Judges 4 and 5 reveal God's heart for delivering His people despite the consequences their sin deserved. Again, the Israelites sinned by committing evil in the sight of the Lord. Even still, God provided victory for His people against Sisera and his army.

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.

# OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities.

## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

### ACTIVITY #1: SING A SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of "Skip To My Lou":

By his wounds you have been healed,  
you have been healed,  
you have been healed.

By his wounds you have been healed.  
1 Peter 2:24

*(Repeat)*

### CONNECT THE DOTS



Our memory verse phrase says, "By his wounds you have been healed." Like God sent judges to help His people, He also sent Jesus to help us. Jesus saves us from our sins when we trust in Him. By Jesus' wounds, we have been healed!

### CONNECT THE DOTS



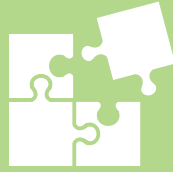
God used Deborah to lead His people. She was wise and obeyed God. She told Barak what God wanted him to do. Then God used Jael to stop Sisera when he ran away from the battle. Like God used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to help His people, God sends people to help us and teach us about Jesus. Jesus won the greatest battle against sin by dying on the cross and coming back to life.

### ACTIVITY #2: FOLLOW THE LEADER

Start a game of follow the leader, then, starting with the second round, have children take turns as the leader.

Talk about Deborah being the leader of the people. Remind children God put Deborah in the position of being a judge, that she was wise, and that she helped Barak when he was afraid.

# OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities.

## ACTIVITY #3: PRAISE SHAKER

Give each child one of the provided shaker instruments.

Guide children to shake their instrument as you play or listen to worship music. (*“Slugs and Bugs” is on the flash drive on your classroom’s TV.*)

End the activity by saying the memory verse phrase out loud as a class:

*By his wounds you have been healed. – 1 Peter 2:24*

## CONNECT THE DOTS



I love to use instruments like this when I praise God. In our Bible story today, after God gave His people victory over their enemies, Deborah and Barak sang a victory song. They praised God for helping them defeat the Canaanite army. We can praise God too because He sent His Son, Jesus, to win the battle against sin by dying on the cross and coming back to life. Let’s praise God with our shakers as we say our memory verse phrase together!





## DEBORAH LED ISRAEL

When the leader of the Israelites died, the people forgot about God. They only remembered when their enemies started being mean to them and made their life hard. The people said, "We were happy when we listened to God." Then they said, "God, please save us!"

At this time, a wise woman named Deborah helped God's people. She sat under a big palm tree and listened to their problems. One day, she told a man named Barak that God wanted him to gather an army. They were going to a mountain to fight against a mean king named Jabin.

Barak was scared. "Will you come with me?" he asked Deborah. So Deborah agreed.

Deborah, Barak, and an army of soldiers went to the mountain. Sisera and his big army were coming to the mountain too.

"Go, Barak! God is with you!" Deborah said. Barak and his soldiers marched toward Sisera. God made Sisera's army confused. Barak's army won the battle, but Sisera ran away.

Sisera ran to the tent of a woman named Jael. She gave him milk and a blanket. When Sisera fell asleep, Jael bravely helped her people by stopping Sisera.

Deborah and Barak celebrated with a song, thanking God for helping His people win.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

God used Deborah to lead His people and help them win battles. God sent His Son, Jesus, to win the battle against sin by dying on the cross and being raised back to life.

# SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

## SNACK & DISCUSSION

**Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.**

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. Who was the judge in our story today, and what did she do?
4. What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

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

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return storage cubes to Rm 108.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**