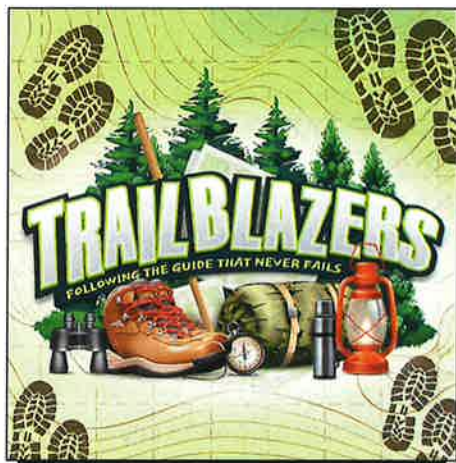




DEBORAH LEADS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Judges 4–5

FOCUS VERSES: 1 John 4:4; Matthew 19:26;
1 Corinthians 15:57

Summary: Deborah was a judge in Israel. Because of their disobedience, Israel had been taken over by the king of Canaan and his general, Sisera. Deborah told Barak to go and fight them, but Barak insisted that Deborah had to come too. The Lord caused the Canaanite army to panic, but Sisera escaped and hid in a tent. A woman named Jael killed him with a tent peg. The Lord was victorious.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



God is victorious.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



CAN ANYTHING DEFEAT GOD?

No! God is all-powerful. There is nothing or no one anywhere who is more powerful than He is.



HOW CAN WE FACE TOUGH TIMES IN LIFE?

We can worship God even when life is hard. We can praise Him for who He is because He is always victorious.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

Leader TRAINING



LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: BIG EMOTIONS AND HELPFUL RESPONSES

While it may appear that a kid is overreacting to a situation, we don't know the whole story. Their reaction may be a response to events that happened before they entered our church. Responding with empathy and understanding will help a kid calm down and feel known.

- **Believe the kid.** Often if a kid is upset, we attempt to reassure them by saying "you're okay" or "don't cry." Instead of reassuring, this message communicates that their feelings are not valid. When we believe a kid's emotions are real, we will be less likely to dismiss their feelings.
- **Help kids name their feelings.** Some kids need help identifying what they are feeling. For example, if they're crying say, "It seems like you're sad." Or if they just kicked a chair, "It looks like you're angry because you just kicked a chair." This will help the kid begin to consider the emotion they are feeling.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: VIOLENCE

Unfortunately, violence is prevalent in our culture. A recent study revealed that 60 percent of kids had witnessed abuse, violence or crime.* Kids who have been exposed to violence can struggle with emotional and mental health issues, as well as potentially engaging in troublesome behavior. Media and entertainment have desensitized many to violence, and unfortunately, many kids live with the reality of violence every day. Kids will likely pick up on the violence in the story today. Remind kids that this story describes what happened, but it isn't telling us what to do. Jael killed a man with a tent peg, but that doesn't mean God is saying we should act violently toward others. Remember, if a kid mentions abuse or violence that has happened to them, report that immediately and find help for the family. Remind kids that violence of any type is not part of God's design for the world. Violence is a result of the fall and is a terrible part of the broken world we live in. One day Jesus will make all things new, and violence will not be a part of His forever kingdom.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Judge: a person chosen by God to lead His people

Omnipotent: having unlimited power; stronger than anything

Victorious: having won a challenge or battle

Bible TEACHING

DEBORAH LEADS JUDGES 4-5



PRAY: God, You are victorious in all You do.
Thank You for hearing us when we call.
Help us see Your power and love for
Your people in today's story. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, butcher paper,
marker, painter's tape, scissors

PREP:

Cut a large piece of butcher paper.
Write "Total Victory Checklist" on the
top and draw five checkmark boxes
descending from the top. Tape the
paper at the front of your space.

LEADER TIP:

For more engagement, allow kids to
checkmark the boxes.

Say: God's people settled into the Promised Land, but they quickly forgot all that God had done for them. They turned away from Him and chose to worship false gods. When this happened, God allowed them to be taken over by an enemy. The people cried out to God for help. He then raised up a leader, called a judge, to deliver them from the enemy. They would live at peace until they turned from God again. This pattern happened over and over.

Say: Following this pattern was foolish, but crying out to God at the lowest point was the right move! God is a victorious God who has more than enough power to help at all times. Let's make a checklist of the ways God brings total victory for His people.

Say: God raised up a woman named Deborah to be the judge over Israel.

Write "Raise up a leader" next to the first box. Check the box and have kids shout, "God is victorious—check!"

Say: Deborah summoned a man named Barak and said, "God has commanded you to gather 10,000 men. God will draw out the general of the enemy army and deliver him over to you."

Write "Give a battle plan" next to the second box. Check the box and have kids shout, "God is victorious—check!"

Read Judges 4:8 directly from the Bible: Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go."

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Show teaching illustration: Barak Asks Deborah to Come With Him.

Say: Deborah agreed, and told him that the Lord would use a woman to take down the enemy.

Write "Promise victory" next to the third box. Check the box and have kids shout, "God is victorious—check!"

Say: Barak and Deborah led their army of 10,000 men. Sisera, the enemy general, heard they were coming and prepared his army, including 900 iron chariots.

Read Judges 4:14 directly from the Bible: *And Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the LORD go out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him.*

Say: When Barak attacked, God caused Sisera's army to panic. The Israelites destroyed the whole army, but Sisera jumped from his chariot and escaped on foot.

Write "Overcome the enemy" next to the fourth box. Check the box and have kids shout, "God is victorious—check!"

Show teaching illustration: The Enemy King Runs Away.

Say: Sisera ran to the tent of a woman named Jael, thinking that this family was peaceful with his people. Sisera hid and fell asleep. While he slept, Jael snuck over to him and drove a tent peg right through his head. God had, indeed, used a woman to defeat the enemy!

Write "Kept His promise" next to the fifth box. Check the box and have the kids shout, "God is victorious—check!"

Say: Deborah and Barak sang a great song, praising God for His victory. They sang, "To the LORD I will sing; I will make melody to the LORD, the God of Israel."

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.

 (CONTINUED)

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God was victorious in the battle and the Israelites were free. But their freedom didn't last. Soon they turned back to their evil ways and were oppressed by another enemy. The Israelites had a much bigger problem than enemy kings. In fact, we all have the same problem. We all sin and rebel against God. The good news is that God is victorious over our sin as well. We can't do anything to make our sin better. But Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. He rose from the dead, defeating death and sin forever!

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

CUP BOWLING

SUPPLIES: 10 cups, tennis ball

OR

ELEPHANT, MOUSE, MOOSE!

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

MEMORY VERSE MOVEMENT

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide

OR

BATTLE CRY

SUPPLIES: Bible

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

FACING TOUGH TIMES

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, beanbag (1 per kid)

OR

VICTORY PRAYERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, butcher paper, scissors, sticky notes (1 per kid), painter's tape



CUP BOWLING

SUPPLIES:

10 cups, tennis ball

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: For larger groups, divide the kids into two teams and set up two sets of bowling pins.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God never fails. How have you seen this week that God hasn't failed you?
4. **Discuss:** Have you ever been victorious before?
5. *Invite kids to share experiences of winning challenges or games in their lives.*
6. **Say:** Let's see if we can be victorious and knock over cups with a tennis ball!
7. *Set up the cups in a bowling pin pattern at one end of your space.*
8. *Have kids take turns trying to knock over the cups by rolling the tennis ball into them.*
9. *Reset the cups in-between kids.*
10. *Celebrate kids' victories and encourage anyone who misses.*
11. **Discuss:** Did you win every time?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Even when we don't win, we can remember that God is always victorious! Today's Bible story is about a battle where God was victorious!



ELEPHANT, MOUSE, MOOSE!

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Provide visuals on a board or printout for reference.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God never fails. How have you seen this week that God hasn't failed you?
4. **Discuss:** Have you ever been victorious before?
5. Invite kids to share experiences of winning challenges or games in their lives.
6. **Say:** Let's play a game and see who will be victorious!
7. **Say:** In pairs, you will stand back to back with your partner. You will both count to three, turn around and show one of three motions—elephant (one hand like a trunk), moose (two hands open on either side of your face), or mouse (two hands close to chest).
8. **Say:** To win, elephant beats moose, mouse beats elephant and moose beats mouse.
9. *Divide kids into pairs and give pairs time to play.*
10. **Say:** Now let's play a championship round! Each pair will play and the winner will play the winner of another pair, and we will keep playing until we have someone who is the ultimate champion!
11. *Play the championship round.*
12. **Say:** _____ is victorious!
13. **Discuss:** How does it feel when you win?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Today we are learning that God is victorious! He provided a victory to the Israelites through a leader named Deborah.



MEMORY VERSE MOVEMENT

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Provide alternate motions for kids with mobility needs or allow them to assist in being the caller.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Luke 1:37 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What impossible thing did God do for the Israelites?
3. **Discuss:** Do you think Deborah, Barak and the Israelites believed that nothing was impossible for God?
4. **Discuss:** Can anything defeat God?
5. **Say:** No! God is all-powerful. There is nothing or no one anywhere who is more powerful than He is.
6. **Say:** Let's say our verse together while doing some tricky movements!
7. *Say the verse together while attempting one of the movements below. Repeat with as many movements as you have time for.*
8. **Movements:**
 - Hopping on one foot
 - Doing a back bend
 - Crab walking
 - March in place
 - Spinning in circles
 - Balancing on one foot
 - Bear crawl
 - Frog jump
9. **Say:** Great job with our movements! Some of those were easy and some were tough!

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

No matter how things feel, God is not limited like we are. When you face something hard this week, remember this verse and trust that nothing is impossible with God!



BATTLE CRY

SUPPLIES:

Bible

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with hearing needs, place them close to the leader for better access.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did God give the Israelites victory in battle?
2. **Discuss:** Can anything defeat God?
3. **Say:** No! God is all-powerful. There is nothing or no one anywhere who is more powerful than He is.
4. **Say:** When soldiers go into battle, they may have a "battle cry" to help them come together as a team and give them courage. Let's practice some of our own battle cries while we march around!
5. *Lead kids in follow-the-leader style movements as you march around your space. Have kids repeat the battlecry after you.*
6. *Battle cries:*
 - Nothing is greater than God!
 - God is the greatest!
 - Jesus has overcome!
 - God is victorious!
 - God never fails!
 - Gather kids in a seated circle.
7. **Discuss:** How did it feel shouting each battlecry?
8. **Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:57.
9. **Say:** No matter what we are going through, we can remember that God gives us victory through Jesus!

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

This week when you are faced with situations that are difficult or seem impossible for you to have victory over, repeat some of these battlecries to yourself. They are Truth you can count on from God's Word. He will give you victory!

 Discipleship DISCUSSION**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?**

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: The Israelites were defeated by their enemies because of their sin. And not just once—over and over. But over and over, God raised up a judge who would help rescue them. He didn't give up on them. He was good even when they were not!

Read Judges 2:18a directly from the Bible: *Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and He saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... VIOLENCE?

Discuss: Without describing what you saw, what are some ways that you have seen violence or people hurting other people? Movies? TV shows? Social media?

Discuss: How does it make you feel when you see something violent like that?

Discuss: What do you think God has to say about that?

Say: Our Bible story today contained some violence. It sounded like something out of a movie! It's important to remember that this story is telling us what happened in this situation, but it isn't telling us that it is something we should do. The Old Testament tells us about a lot of battles and wars that happened. God used these battles to protect His people or to punish people who were against Him. Those are God's decisions, not ours. God calls us to love others and to treat others kindly. Proverbs 3:31 says: *Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways.* All violence is a result of living in a world broken by sin. It is not what God designed for us. One day, Jesus will return and make this whole world new again. There will be no fighting or violence or pain. Until then, we can seek God's help when we are afraid of violence around us. If something violent is happening to you, that is not okay or what God wants for you. Talk to an adult you trust.



FACING TOUGH TIMES

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, beanbag (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages. Keep the Situations Page with you.

LEADER TIP: Invite kids to share difficult situations they are facing and what praise card they could use.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For active learners, provide a designated spot for them to sit in between two positive kids or provide a chair within the circle for the kid to sit. This will allow for personal space.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How was Israel victorious in our story today?
2. **Say:** We may not fight in battles, but all of us face tough times in our lives.
3. **Discuss:** How can we face tough times in life?
4. **Say:** We can worship God even when life is hard. We can praise Him for who He is because He is always victorious.
5. *Gather kids in a circle. Read each praise card aloud and then put it down in the middle of your circle.*
6. *Pass out a beanbag to each kid.*
7. *Read the first situation and have each kid toss their beanbag on the praise card they could use to praise God. Invite kids to share why they chose that card.*
8. *Continue until you have read and discussed each situation.*
9. **Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:57.
10. **Discuss:** What does this verse remind us of and tell us to do?
11. **Say:** When we face tough times, we can remember and praise God for who He is because we know that ultimately He will be victorious and defeat sin and death.
12. **Pray:** God, we praise You for always being victorious. Help us to trust You even during tough times and remember that nothing is impossible for You. Amen.
13. **Say:** God is victorious. Let's take time to respond to Him.



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



VICTORY PRAYERS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, butcher paper, scissors, sticky notes (1 per kid), painter's tape

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Cut a large piece of butcher paper and draw a trophy on it. Write "God is victorious." Tape the sign to the wall.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Allow for extra time and cueing of ideas to support struggling learners.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did Deborah do when she was facing a difficult time?
2. **Discuss:** How can we face hard times in our lives?
3. **Say:** We can worship and praise God for who He is and remember that He is victorious.
4. **Say:** Let's talk to God about the hard times we are facing. You will draw on a sticky note a tough situation you are facing right now.
5. *Pass out supplies and give kids time to draw their situations.*
6. **Say:** Let's pray and talk to God about this situation. Tell Him what is going on, how you are feeling and ask Him for help.
7. **Read:** 1 John 4:4.
8. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about facing tough times in our lives?
9. **Say:** No matter the hard time we are facing, we can trust that God is victorious. He is stronger than anything we will face in this world. Let's praise and worship God. Take your situation and put it on the trophy. Then we will pray together.
10. *Invite kids to place their sticky notes on the trophy and say, "Thank You, God, for being victorious!"*
11. **Discuss:** Why can we praise God when we go through tough times?
12. **Pray:** God, we praise You for always being victorious. Help us to trust You even during tough times and remember that nothing is impossible for You. Amen.
13. **Say:** God is victorious. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



PRAISE CARDS

**THANK YOU, GOD,
THAT YOU LOVE ME
UNCONDITIONALLY.**



PRAISE CARDS

**THANK YOU, GOD,
THAT YOU ARE
ALWAYS WITH ME.**



PRAISE CARDS

**THANK YOU, GOD,
THAT YOU FIGHT
FOR ME.**



PRAISE CARDS

**THANK YOU, GOD,
THAT YOU
PROTECT ME.**



PRAISE CARDS

**THANK YOU, GOD,
THAT YOU PROVIDE
FOR ME.**



PRAISE CARDS

**THANK YOU, GOD,
THAT YOU
COMFORT ME.**



SITUATIONS



Situation 1: Your mom and dad are fighting a lot and you are worried.

Situation 2: Your family member is very sick and in the hospital.

Situation 3: You are having trouble with a kid in school who is calling you names and teasing you.

Situation 4: You always fight with your siblings. They make you so mad when they take your things without asking or never give you a turn.

Situation 5: Your friend is moving away and you are very sad.

Situation 6: You are at a friend's house. All the kids are saying and doing things you know are wrong. You want to stand up for what is right, but you are afraid.





TAKE-HOME

DEBORAH LEADS

BIBLE PASSAGE: JUDGES 4-5 Israel disobeyed God and had been taken over by King Sisera of Canaan. Deborah, a judge in Israel, told Barak to fight Canaan's army. God caused the enemy to panic, and though Sisera fled, Jael killed him. The Lord gave Israel victory.

POINT TO JESUS: We all sin and rebel against God. The good news is that God is victorious over our sin, just like He was victorious over evil kings in the Old Testament. We can't do anything to make our sin better. But Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. He rose from the dead, defeating death and sin forever!



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

*For nothing will be
impossible with God.*

(LUKE 1:37)

FAMILIES, ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS!



**WHO IS ONE OTHER KID THAT YOU LIKED
BEING IN GROUP WITH TODAY?**



CAN ANYTHING DEFEAT GOD?
No! God is all-powerful. There is nothing or no one anywhere who is more powerful than He is.



**HOW CAN WE FACE TOUGH TIMES IN
LIFE?**
We can worship God, even when life is hard. We can praise Him for who He is because He is always victorious.

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

CHOOSE ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ I can talk to God about ... | ☐ I wonder ... |
| ☐ I can remember ... | ☐ I can ... |



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

YOUR FAMILY'S WIN THIS WEEK ...

Make a homemade trophy using anything around your home. Write "God is victorious" on the front.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

Violence can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here. [Britecurriculum.com/tough-topics](https://www.britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)

**WANT MORE
AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION?
SCAN ME!**



GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week!

Read each passage with a grown-up and answer the three questions together.

☐ **DAY 1**

Read: Judges 4:4-6

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ **DAY 2**

Read: Judges 4:14

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ **DAY 3**

Read: Judges 5:1-2

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ **DAY 4**

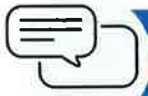
Read: 1 John 5:4-5

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

DEBORAH LEADS



COLOR THE ILLUSTRATION

FINISH THIS DRAWING



Finish this picture! Turn this shape into something creative.

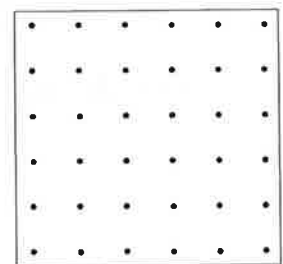
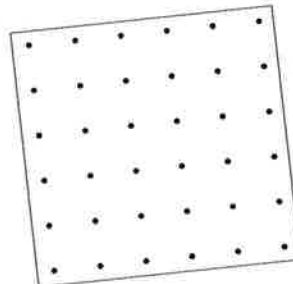
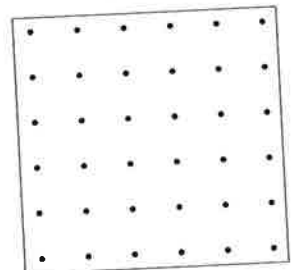
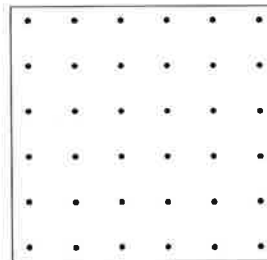
DOTS & BOXES

Find a partner.

Take turns connecting two dots, either side-to-side or up-and-down.

When someone makes a box, write their initial.

The player with the most boxes at the end wins!



JUDGES 4-5

DEBORAH LEADS



brite*

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Coloring Page

