



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)

BRITE  *Idea*

God is victorious.

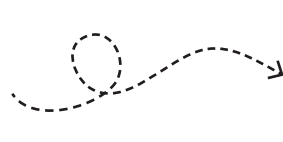


We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



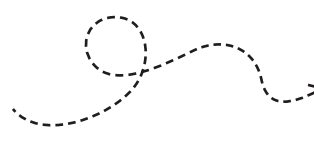
CAN ANYTHING DEFEAT GOD?

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

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, 20 ping-pong balls, 4 manila folders, painter's tape

2**FIND IT IN
THE BIBLE****(2 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slides

3**BIBLE
TEACHING****(10 MINUTES)**

**DEBORAH LEADS
(JUDGES 4-5)**

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

4**REVIEW****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

5**LARGE GROUP
WRAP-UP****(5 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Call four volunteers to the front and divide them into two teams. Give each player a manila folder.

Say: Let's have a ping-pong-ball battle! Each team will use their folders to fan as many ping-pong balls as possible across the line on the other side. You may not touch the balls or cross the line. The team with the most ping-pong balls across the line wins!

Start the game. When all the balls have crossed a line, call "Stop!" and count them. Announce the winner, invite four new players, and play again as time allows.

Say: That was a fierce battle! Today we will hear about a leader named Deborah, who confidently led God's people into battle, trusting God to bring the victory.

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, 20 ping-pong balls, 4 manila folders, painter's tape

PREP:

Tape two lines several feet apart at the front of your space. Place the ping-pong balls in the space between the lines.

LEADER TIP:

This game can get energetic. Remind kids to keep their hands to themselves.



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: Isaiah thought his way would be faster, but it only made things harder for him.

Discuss: Have you ever tried to do something your own way and it didn't turn out how you expected?

Say: In today's story, Barak knew he couldn't win the battle on his own. He needed God to help him, and God showed His power. Today's Brite Idea is: God is victorious.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:

- HE** Can anything defeat God?
- WE** How can we face tough times in life?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:

- ME** How is God inviting me to respond?



FIND IT
IN THE

Bible

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching image: Joshua Prays & Sun Stands Still

Say: Last week we learned about the time the sun stood still and how God does what He says.

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible

Say: This week's story comes from the book of Judges. Judges is found in the Old Testament between the books of Joshua and Ruth.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline

Say: This story falls in the "Promised Land" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened when God was Israel's King and often used judges to rescue His people.

Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme

Say: This month we are focusing on the powerful truth that God never fails.

Say: This week we will meet a powerful leader whose life proves that God is always victorious.

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Judges. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (Judges 4–5).

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!



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

INSTRUCTIONS: Kids will stand up if the statement is true and sit down if the statement is false.

- 1. God would raise up a leader called a judge to deliver His people. (True)**

- 2. Only men were judges over Israel. (False)**

God raised up a judge named Deborah to lead.

- 3. Israel won the battle against their enemies, but Sisera escaped and was never punished. (False)**

Sisera was killed and God gave Israel complete victory.

- 4. Deborah and Barak sang to praise God for the victory. (True)**

- 5. Only a few things can defeat God. (False)**

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

- 6. We can praise God because He is always victorious. (True)**

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



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer

HE

Can anything defeat God?

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

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer

WE

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.



MONTHLY

Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video
after the verse is read.



PRAY: God, all the power belongs to You. You are great and Your way always wins. Thank You for loving us and helping us when life is hard. May we be like Deborah and Barak and praise You for every victory. Amen.