

10. Deborah (Judges 4:4-16)

He did what was right in the LORD'S eyes. (2 Kings 22:2)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Deborah
Who's the Leader?
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversation
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Palm Tree
Help Tree
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: CD player | DVD player | Projector or screen | Television | Construction paper | Craft glue | Crayons | Markers | Offering basket | Paper | Pencils | Scissors | Tape

Gather: Bell | Carpet squares

Explore: Bell

Respond: Bell | Candle | Carpet squares | Multipurpose lighter | Paper-towel tubes

Bless: Envelope

Before You Teach

If you follow the story of the Israelite people through the Old Testament, you will notice a pattern. The Israelites were oppressed by and living under the rule of an enemy. The Israelites called out to God for help. God identified a strong leader and rescued the Israelites from oppression. A period of peace followed during which the Israelites fell away from God and the cycle began again.

In the fourth chapter of Judges, we learn that the Israelites had been living under the rule of the Canaanites. Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army, had been cruelly oppressing the Israelites for 20 years. Predictably, the Israelites cried out to God for help.

Enter Deborah, described as a prophet and leader of Israel. Deborah delivered a message from God to Barak, commanding him to gather his tribe and two other tribes to fight the Canaanites. Deborah assured Barak that God would deliver Sisera into his hands and the Israelites would be victorious. Barak said he will go into battle only if Deborah would go with him. Deborah agreed to his request and accompanied him into battle. Barak and Deborah led the Israelites into battle and God assisted by throwing the chariots and army in a panic.

The story of Deborah and Barak is told twice. In Judges 4, the story is told in narrative form. In chapter 5, the same story is told in a poetic form similar to a ballad. Deborah's song in chapter 5 is considered by most scholars to be one of the oldest pieces of literature in the Old Testament.

As with many Old Testament stories, aspects of this story can be troubling to those of us who long for peace and resist against violence. These issues cannot be easily resolved. As you teach today's story, focus on Deborah as a leader and one that helped others follow God's call.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16-17 or pp. 18 & 15).

- Play “All Are Welcome” and “Be a Leader” (Annual Music CD).
 - Welcome and greet each child as he or she enters the room.
 - Indicate location of the offering basket.
 - Help children mark their attendance inside the building on the Community Attendance Chart (opt.).
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A—Deborah (Activity Sheet)

Before class: Obtain Activity Sheets (Session 10).

- Distribute “Help Like Deborah”/”Deborah’s Tree” (pp. 21-22).
 - Encourage the children to follow the journaling prompt and complete the activities.
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OR

B—Who’s the Leader? (Game)

- Direct the children to place their chairs in a circle and be seated. Instruct them to close their eyes.
- Walk around outside of the circle; tap one child to be IT. Direct the children to open their eyes.
- Tell how you will start the motion game, then an unknown IT will continue giving directions. Children will try to guess the identity of IT.
- Join the circle. Begin the motions by patting your legs and do not speak. The children are to follow your motions. When IT is ready, he or she will initiate the motion change without drawing attention to themselves. The children will continue to mimic the motions and IT will continue to change the motion until someone guesses who IT is.

SAY: Today there is an important leader in the Bible story.

TIP: For a more challenging game, let IT change by winking at someone. The new IT will give motions.

Transition to Explore

Before class: Obtain bell and carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to acknowledge that it is time to transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares (or equivalent items), then sit in a circle on the floor.

TIP: Use Transitions as tools to help children easily move from one activity to the next.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversation

- Ask a few wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What made you laugh this week?
 - How did you help someone this week?
 - What are you grateful for?
 - Was there a difficult part of your week, and what made it better?
 - Where did you see God this week?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

Before class: Prepare television and DVD player.

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible—Judges 4:4-16*).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure DVD Session 10.

ASK: Who helps you solve problems?

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets (Session 10).

- Distribute the Bible Story Sheets and draw attention to Bible Story Retelling (p. 1).
 - Assign the four parts and direct the group to read for Israelites and All. Then present “Deborah.”
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 14 & 19). Review Unit 3 sign language (Leader Guide—p. 93).

- Recite the Bible verse, “He did what was right in the LORD’s eyes” (2 Kings 22:2).
 - Invite the children to say and sign the Bible verse with you.
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Transition to Respond

Before class: Obtain bell.

- Ring the bell, then invite the children to put away their carpet squares.

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RESPOND

A—Palm Tree (Art)

Before class: Gather paper-towel tubes and construction paper (green). Cut construction-paper strips 1" x 3", at least six strips per child.

SAY: In today's Bible story, Deborah made decisions while seated under a tree. Let's make a tree to remember the story.

- Distribute the paper-towel tubes and paper strips.
- Let the children decorate the tubes, then fold the paper strips accordion-style. They can tape or glue the strips to the inside top of the tubes.

OR

B—Help Tree (Logical)

Before class: Photocopy "Help Tree" (Leader Guide—p. 66), one per child.

- Distribute the photocopies of "Help Tree."
- Invite the children to answer the questions about asking for help.

ASK: Is it easy or hard to ask for help? Who do you ask for help?

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Obtain Map 6: Deep Blue Shores (Class Kit—p. 8) and Figures/Pieces: Deep Blue Shores Map 6 (Class Kit—p. 25). Invite a female leader from your church or community to speak to the class.

- Display the Deep Blue Shores Map 6 on the floor or table. While the children interact with the map and figures, talk about women leaders.

SAY: Today I've invited a leader in our church to share with us about the important work she does.

- Invite the children to listen to the guest and ask any questions they might have.
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Transition to Bless

Before class: Obtain bell, candle, multipurpose lighter (or battery-operated candle), carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to signal transition.
- Direct the children to each choose a carpet square, then sit in a circle on the floor.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 14 & 19) where it is easily accessible for children. Obtain Poster Pieces: Unit 3 Bible Verse (Class Kit—p. 27). Cut out poster pieces and store in an envelope.

- Gather the children around the new Bible-verse poster.
- Display the poster pieces.
- Invite a child to attach to the poster the “palm tree” poster piece.

PRAY: Dear God, help me to be a leader. Amen.

Praising

Before class: Obtain CD player and Deep Blue Song Sheets (new, located in Bible Story Sheets).

- Distribute the song sheets for “Be a Leader” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sing the song “Be a Leader” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sign the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 93).
 - Collect the song sheets and store until the next session.
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Blessing

- Direct the children to be seated in their chairs and form a circle.
 - Working around from inside the circle, invite a child to stand, say, “I am a leader,” and remain standing. Move to the next child.
 - Let the children continue to stand until all are standing.
 - Invite them to say together, “We are leaders for God!”
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At Home with God

ASK: What is one thing that you learned today? Can you share with your family what you learned?

- Send home with each child Bible Story Sheets—Session 10 leaflet.

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Help Tree

