

JUDGES

“Deborah and Barack”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- The story of Deborah and Barack
- The story of Gideon
- The story of Samson and Delilah
- The story of Ruth

Series Theme Verse: “The Lord answered, ‘I will be with you.’” – Judges 6:16

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God is the one who rescues us, and that God used Judges to rescue the people of God.

Lesson Passage: Judges 4:1-16

Materials Needed: Bibles, Series Theme Verse on poster, Picture of a chariot and a palm tree, colors, copies of the palm tree at the end of the lesson

Lesson Plan: Remind students that God would choose people to lead God’s people as they grew together as the community of God. We have talked about Moses and Joshua, but after Joshua’s death, we turn to the stories of a group of people who were called Judges. God would choose Judges to lead Israel whenever Israel had been taken over by groups of people who did not love God, kind of like how the Egyptians made the Israelites into slaves and God used Moses to free Israel from Egypt. Today we are going to look at the story of one of the best Judges who helped save Israel from Canaanites.

Talking Points: Judges 4:1-16

- When Israel did bad things in the eyes of God, who did God allow to take over Israel? (The Canaanites)
- When the people of Israel were in slavery to the King of Canaan, what was their response? (They cried out to God, they asked God to save them)
- How many chariots did the king of Canaan have? (900! You might show the kids a picture of a chariot on your phone or preprinted out)
 - It would be impossible for the people of Israel to win a battle against 900 chariots, right?!
- How long was Israel under the rule of Canaan? (20 years)
- God used a Prophetess to be the next leader or Judge of Israel, what was her name? (Deborah)
 - A Prophetess was someone who spoke for God. God would speak to Deborah and she would tell the people what God said.

- Where did Deborah judge or settle disputes of the people from? (Under a palm tree. You might show the kids what a palm tree looks like and the shade it would give Deborah)
- God tells Deborah how to defeat the Canaanites and save the people of Israel from their slavery, who does Deborah summon or call to explain the plan to? (Barak)
- What was the plan? (10,000 soldiers of Israel would march to a mountain. When the Canaanite commander heard Israel's troops were marching he would come out with his 900 chariots to attack Israel, but God would give Barak and Israel the victory over Sisera and the Canaanites)
- Was Barak confident in God's plan? (No, he said he would not lead the army unless Deborah went with him)
- Does Deborah go with Barak? (Yes, but because of his lack of faith in God's plan, Barak would no longer get the glory for the victory)
- What did Sisera, the leader of the Canaanite army do when he was told that Israel's army was marching to the Mountain of Tabor for war? (He summoned all his chariots and army to the river by the mountain to fight Israel)
 - 10,000 soldiers for Israel against 900 chariots AND an army for the Canaanites...who do you think will win?
- Who told the Israelite army to attack (vs 14), was it the leader of the army, Barak, or Deborah? (Deborah)
- How did the battle happen? (Israel charged down the mountain at the iron chariots, they had no chance of winning, but God was fighting with Israel and the chariots were overrun by the Israelites. In fact, they army of Sisera fled on foot because they were losing so badly. The Bible says God and Israel routed or totally destroyed the army of the Canaanites. Sisera got away, but not for long, he would be caught and die as his troops did.)

The Story Retold:

- Make copies of the palm tree at the end of the lesson and let children color the palm tree.
- Ask children if they remember a palm tree in the story of Deborah and Barak?
- Have the students draw Deborah underneath the palm tree listening to God.
- Use the palm tree to reinforce the concept that the Judges were not just people who settled arguments, but they were chosen by God to be leaders of Israel. God used the Judges to rescue Israel.
- Use the palm tree to transition into teaching the Series Theme Verse.

The Story and Me:

- Have the memory verse for the unit written on a piece of poster board and it is on the palm tree.
- Have the students sit in a big circle on the floor.
- Read the memory verse to the students.
- Explain to students that the memory verse tells us that God used judges to save God's people, but ultimately, God is the one who rescues Israel and us.
- Now have the group say the memory verse together.
- Have the boys say the verse together. Have the girls say the verse together.

- Go around the circle and have each individual child say the memory verse.
- Remind students that just as God was with the Judges, God is with us each and every day.

“The Lord answered, ‘I will be with you.’” Judges 6:16

