

Lesson 3: Deborah the 4th Judge

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Judges 4 – Deborah, Barak and Jael
- 2) Track the judges using a chart to help them memorize each judge

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for idea

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Map of Judges – one for class to share (keep for other classes later on as well)
- Map of Judges and Oppressors – one for class to share
- Judges Charts and Answer Key– (from previous class)
- Deborah and Barak Color Page – one per younger student
- Deborah Activity Sheet – one per older student

Optional:

Hangman Game

- Large writing surface – like easel with paper or chalkboard (to play hangman) or piece of paper to show children as you play hangman.
- Marker or pen
- Activity Game Template – one sheet per class cut out before hand
- Scissors – to cut template
- Tape – to hang pictures on wall
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Tent Peg snack (pretzel sticks) | 1-4 pieces for each child |
| - Napkins for snack | one per child |
| - Juice or water and cup | one per child |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

This quarter we will continue to study the Books of History from the Old Testament. We are going to focus on Judges, Ruth and begin 1 Samuel this quarter.

Raise your hand and tell me if you remember what the term “Judges” mean in this Old Testament book? They were military conquerors not courtroom judges and these judges helped Israel defeat other nations that wanted to conquer Israel.

What did we study last week? Let students raise their hands and answer. Some answers might include: studying first three Judges – Othniel, Ehud and Shamgar. Ehud killed a king with a sword/knife, Shamgar killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad and Othniel was Caleb’s younger brother and the first judge chosen by God.

Does anyone have any questions from last week? Answer if you are able, if not tell the students you will get an answer and let them know next week and then make sure you do 😊

Good job! Now, if you have your Bibles let’s find Judges and turn there now. (For students that don’t have Bibles provide one or have them share with the person sitting next to them.)

2) Deborah the 4th Judge – with Judges Map and Chart

20-25 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

*Have map of Judges ready to show class as you read

Let’s all turn to Judges Chapter 4 and can I get a volunteer to read 4:1-5?

Thank them for reading and then show them the map of Judges – point to Deborah’s area and show what area she judged from.

Discussion Questions:

Who was Deborah? The first woman judge who was also a prophetess who would judge decisions from under palm trees.

Who was oppressing the Israelites at that time? Canaanites

Why? Because in verse 1 – it says as soon as Ehud died – the Israelites began to do evil again.

***Remember that even though we studied Shamgar as the third judge – he ruled in the north at the same time that Ehud ruled. So Ehud must have outlived Shamgar and so that is why Ehud is mentioned instead of Shamgar as judge before Deborah.**

Hand out one **Judges Chart** to each child along with pencils and erasers. Use the ones that you saved from last week handing out new ones to any student who was not present last time.

Younger students will get a chart with more pictures on it for those who aren’t able to read and write well yet. Older students who can read and write well will get a blank chart that they will fill in mostly on their own.

Tell the students, **“Each week we are going to fill in this chart with information about the 13 judges we will study this quarter. We just read about the fourth judge – what was her name? Deborah. If you look on the chart – she is the fourth one to be listed. There is also some other information on the chart we need to fill in each time we study a judge. Can someone raise their hand and tell me what topics are listed at the top of the page? (Judge, Length of Rule, Fact, Oppressor, and Years of Oppression)**

So beside the word Deborah under Length of Rule, what are we going to write there, let’s turn to Judges 5:31 and read what it says about Deborah’s length of rule? 40 years.

Can everyone write the number 40 under the orange tab that says length of rule? Help by pointing where to write the number 40 if needed.

What is a fact we can write about Deborah? Let students answer. Acceptable answers might be first woman judge or they can write prophetess. Let the younger students color the picture of the woman or circle the picture if you are short on time. They can keep coloring the picture of Deborah and listen while you and the older students fill in the rest of the chart.

Under the green heading it says oppressor – that means the group of people that were fighting the Israelites to take over their territory. In Judges 4 – who were the oppressors? Canaanites (see verse 2). Help students write Canaanites. For younger students the word is already filled in.

Now, finally under “Years of Oppression” the last tab – how long did the Canaanites oppress Israel? 20 years. Can you all write the number 20 in that box please? Help students as needed.

Answer: Deborah – 40 years (Judges 5:31) – woman judge who was also a prophetess – Canaanites – 20 years. Younger students can color the picture of Deborah and write 40 and 20 in the correct spots.

Great job everyone. We have completed the fourth judge. Now let’s go back to the Bible to read more about Deborah. Can I get volunteers to read 4 verses each from Judges 4:6-5:2?

***Use visual aids supplied and stop at the appropriate spot and show them the picture while you read the events from the Bible.**

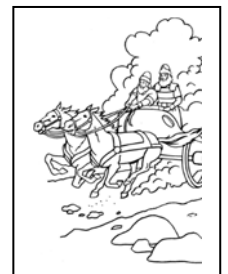
What happened here? Deborah sent for Barak to lead the Israelites against Sisera – the commander of the Canaanite army. Because Barak asked Deborah to come, Deborah said the victory of defeat would go to a woman instead of Barak. During the fight, Sisera escaped and went into Jael’s (a woman’s) tent. While he rested there, she took a tent peg and killed him and called Barak to see.

3) Deborah Activity Sheet and/or Color Page

10-15 minutes

Say, **“Today we learned that Deborah – the fourth judge of Israel – organized the battle between the Israelites and the Canaanites through Barak. The commander of the Canaanite army, Sisera, had 900 iron chariots in his army, but thanks to God, the Israelites defeated the Canaanites.**

We are going to do an activity sheet – Let each student choose either a color page or Deborah activity sheet. Hand out pencil crayons, read the directions on the Deborah sheet and circle the right answers.



Answers: Circle all except – was a princess, baked bread, was very old, and never married

Fill in the blanks – Helped Barak

Fill in the blanks from Hebrews – Barak because of his faith

Ask students if they have any questions before moving on.

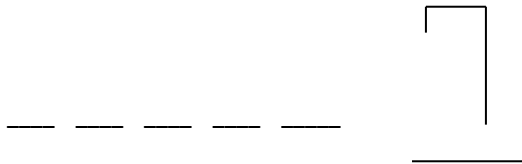
4) Optional: Hangman Game

5-10 minutes

Before class get a large easel or chalkboard with marker or chalk to show kids while playing the game of hangman. If neither are available sit around a table and hold up a page with the gallows and slots for the words underneath so all children can see – use a marker to fill in each letter as they say them. Play hangman with key words from the Bible story – when kids discover the word – ask them to explain why that word was important if they can, or you can explain if they can’t.

Game instructions: Ask students if they know the game, if not explain to them the following:

1. Start the game by choosing a word from the list below –don't let the children know what word you have chosen and don't let them see your list of words.
2. Place one dash on the bottom of a piece of paper for each letter of the word or words chosen. Leave a space between words. Example: Jacob – you would write ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ at the bottom of the page you are using to show the students.
3. Draw a "gallows" at the top of the paper - draw a horizontal line at the bottom, a vertical line coming up out of its center, and then a short line off to the right at the top (so that you now have an upside-down "L" on the horizontal line). Draw a short vertical line off the end of the top line - this is your "noose." Example:



4. Have the other player guess one letter at a time - or he or she can use a turn to guess the entire word or words. If they get the letter write – fill it in where it belongs – example: J would go at the first slot above for J ___ ___ ___.
5. If they get the letter wrong – write the letter on the top of the page – so other students know it was already chosen and then fill in a part of the body on the hangman's noose. Begin by drawing a head attached to the short vertical line (the "noose"). Add body, right leg, left leg, right arm, then left arm.
6. Know that if the drawing of the person is completed before the word or words are guessed, the guessing player loses. If the player figures out the word or words first, he or she wins.
7. When a student guesses the word ask them to explain something that they know about the word.

List of Words to Use

(Possible suggestions for things they might know about that word):

Deborah – 4th Judge, sent Barak to fight the Canaanites

Barak – military leader who was sent by God through Deborah to fight the Canaanites

Sisera – Canaanite commander of the army who was killed by a woman while he slept

Milk – the drink Jael gave Sisera instead of the water he asked for

Peg – the tool that Jael used to kill King Sisera

Song – what Deborah and Barak sang when God delivered them from the Canaanites

5) Optional: Activity Action Game

5-10 minutes

Cut out the pictures of Deborah, Barak and the Tent Peg templates from the template provided and with tape, tape them on different walls in the classroom or hallway.

Gather children around and tell them that one at a time they are going to take turns, when you call the child by name – you will then say randomly either “Deborah”, “Barak”, or “Peg”.

That child will then run to the picture of the word you said. Have them return to the end of the line so the next child can go. Let each child take a turn and then if time and if they are having fun – play the game again.

Another option is to allow **all** the children to run to the right picture when you call out the pictures name if they are careful not to push or run into each other. Then you can just have them run from one picture to the next as you call them out. Make sure you are not in an area where noise would disrupt others.

6) Optional – Snack: Pretzel sticks (to represent tent pegs)

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that: **Today we studied that Deborah was the 4th judge. And while she ruled, she learned from God that Barak was to go fight the Canaanite king. When she told Barak, he asked her to come along with him and so she said a woman would claim the victory of defeating Sisera the commander and not Barak. Jael was that woman – she waited till Sisera fell asleep and then killed him with a tent peg. Let's think of these things while we eat our tent peg snack.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands.

Discuss any questions while snacking. See if students can remember any of the names of the judges while snacking or see how many books of history they can name.

7) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. An example:

Judges –

To the tune of the Alphabet song or the ABC....song

Name the Judges who went to war

Othniel, Ehud and Shamgar

Deborah, Gideon, and Abimelech

Tola, Jair and Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon and Abdon

The last Judge was Samson!

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God, help us as we study Your perfect Word in the Old Testament to understand it, use it and see the examples of faithful people that followed You. Help us to remember that Your commands are important and need to be followed to live a life that is pleasing to You. Help us all too always love You with our whole heart, mind, strength and soul! Help us this week as we go from our church family – we pray that you will be with us and our families, help us share the good news of Your love to every one we meet and help us to remember to pray and study the Bible every day. Thank you for the book of Judges that will show us how we still need to be faithful, even if everyone else around us is not. Help us to see that we can be faithful just like some of the judges were. We pray for those who could not be here today. We pray you will bring them back safely next week.

Thank you God for Your love, thank you for Your Son Jesus, thank you for caring for us and providing such a beautiful world for us to live in, and thank you for giving us Your Word – the Bible so we can know how to live and learn what pleases You. In Jesus precious name, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!