# FAITHFUL Followers

**Memory Verse:** ***"But you are chosen people. You are the King's priests. You are a holy nation. You are a nation that belongs to God alone." 1 Peter 2:9a***

**Big Idea:** ***God calls His people because He loves.***

**Bible Story: A Judge named Deborah | Judges 4-5**

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## **Gear Up -** Arrival

**Greet** children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

**Opening Activities**: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

### *Memory Verse Game – Say What?!*

**What you'll need:** No supplies needed

**How to Play:** Scouts (K-2): Say the verse out loud together in different voices (robot, animal, whisper, shout) or with different actions (tiptoe, stomp, hop). Repeat in fun ways.

Navigators (3-5): Say the verse out loud together. Then decide which words to emphasize with a different voice, louder or softer volume, or movements. Repeat in fun ways.

### *Bible Time – Bible Book Catch*

**What you'll need:** a soft ball or throwable object

**How to play:** Gather the kids in a circle. Using the Books of the Bible poster in your classroom, a leader will toss a ball or soft object to a kid and choose the New Testament or the Old Testament. The catcher names a book in that testament and then tosses the ball to a different kid, and the catcher names the book of the Bible that follows the first book named. Tossing and catching continues as kids name the books of the Bible in order.

### *Get-To-Know-You Game – Do You Trust Me?*

**What you'll need:** set up a simple obstacle course with chairs, cones, pillows, etc.
**How to Play:**

- One child is "Barak" and will be going through the course as another kid is "Deborah" who gives directions.
  - Example directions: jump over the pillow, crawl under the chair, step around the cones…
- Barak must **listen carefully** to complete the course.
- **Lesson:** Just like Barak trusted Deborah (and God), we should listen and trust good guidance.

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## **Gear Up -** Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

**Gather** kids together in a space where they can see the TV.
Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

**PRAY FIRST!** We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

## **Lesson Introduction** – 5 minutes

**Share the Lesson Intro** with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

**Say:** *"We've been learning about Faithful Followers of God like Moses and Joshua. As we've read true stories from the Bible, we've learned that God protects, instructs, leads, and saves His people because He loves them. The best news is that He is still protecting, teaching, leading, and saving those who believe in Him today. Our Big Idea for April is that* ***God calls His people because He loves.*** *We will see how God chose leaders called Judges to help lead Israel. The judges were known as prophets. A prophet was someone who listened to God and shared His messages with others."*

**Play the KXP lesson video** in your classroom.

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## **Bible Story –** 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story below before Sunday to prepare for discussion.

### **Holy Week A Judge named Deborah | Judges 4-5**

Let's jump into the Book of Judges for today's true story. God's people, the Israelites, were not making good choices. They forgot to follow God and began doing things their own way. Because of this, trouble came. A powerful king named Jabin ruled over them, and his army commander, Sisera, was very strong and people feared him. Sisera had 900 iron chariots—big, heavy carts with wheels made for war. Whenever the Israelites heard the rumble of those chariots, they felt afraid. For 20 long years, the people were treated badly. They were so unhappy that they finally cried out to God for help. And God heard them.
God chose a woman named **Deborah** to help His people. Deborah was wise, kind, and brave. She loved God and listened closely to His voice. She was also a **prophet**, which meant God gave her messages to share with others. Every day, Deborah would sit under a tall palm tree. That tree was later called *The Palm of Deborah*. People came from far away to ask her for advice or to help solve problems. "Deborah, what should we do?" they would ask. And Deborah would help them make fair and wise choices, always pointing them back to God.

One day, God gave Deborah a very important message. Deborah sent for Barak right away. When he arrived, she told him everything God had said.

Judges chapter 4, verses 6 and 7 says ***"Deborah said to Barak, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go and gather 10,000 men…Lead them to Mount Tabor. I will help you to defeat Sisera there.'"*** Barak listened, but he felt nervous. Sisera's army was so big and powerful.

In verse 8, Barak said to Deborah, ***"I will go if you go with me. But if you will not go, I won't go."*** Deborah agreed without fear. "I will go with you," she said. "But because you are afraid to go alone, the honor of this victory will go to a woman." Barak nodded, and together they prepared for battle.

Barak gathered 10,000 soldiers, and they marched with Deborah to Mount Tabor. When Sisera heard about this, he quickly called his army together. His 900 chariots rolled across the ground, making a loud rumbling sound like thunder. It looked like an impossible fight. But Deborah was calm.

In verse 14, Deborah tells Barak to ***"Get up!" Today is the day the Lord will help you defeat Sisera. You know the Lord has already cleared the way for you."*** Barak trusted her and led his army down the mountain. As the battle began, something amazing happened. God sent a powerful storm! Rain poured down, and the ground became muddy. Sisera's heavy chariots got stuck and couldn't move. The mighty army that once seemed unstoppable was now confused and trapped.

Barak and his soldiers chased them, and with God's help, they won the battle! Sisera's army was defeated. But Sisera himself escaped on foot. Tired and afraid, Sisera ran until he found a tent. It belonged to a woman named **Jael**. Jael welcomed him kindly. "Come in," she said. "Don't be afraid." Sisera went inside and asked for water. Jael gave him milk and a blanket to rest. Soon, he fell fast asleep.

But Jael knew something important—this man had hurt God's people. So, she made a brave and bold choice. While Sisera was sleeping, she stopped him so he could never harm anyone again. Just then, Barak arrived, searching for Sisera. Jael stepped outside and said, "Come, I will show you the man you are looking for." And there he was—defeated, just as Deborah had said.

After the victory, Deborah and Barak sang a beautiful song to praise God. They sang about His power, His help in the battle, and the bravery of those who trusted Him. The people rejoiced because they were finally free! After that day, the land was peaceful for **40 years**. No more fear. No more fighting. Just peace.

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## **Lesson Recap –**15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.

**Say:** *"We can learn a lot from Deborah. She trusted God even when things seemed scary. We can listen carefully to God and the people He has put in our lives so that we know what is right and what is wrong. We can be brave! And one of the biggest lessons we can learn from Deborah's story is that God calls all types of people to be a part of His Big Story – men, women, boys, girls, old, and young. Thanks for being here today. Come back next week to learn about a new judge named Gideon. It will be another great story."*

**Direct** the kids to the **Memory Verse** and **Big Idea** posters in your room. Have your class read them together out loud. Celebrate the kids for paying attention and listening well!

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## **Close in Prayer** – 3 to 5 minutes

Ask the kids in your room to share any **prayer requests** they have. Give them a moment to **fill out prayer cards** or **choose a prayer prompt** to take home. Then **pray over them**!

- **P**RAISE - *Open with adoration.*
- **R**EPENT - *Recall and connect the Big Idea from the Bible Story to yourself and the kids.*
- **A**SK - *Petition the Lord on the kids' behalf.*
- **Y**IELD - *Close by giving thanks to God for His perfect plan.*

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## **Live It Out** – 5 to 8 minutes | **I Can Be Brave When…**

**What you'll need:** paper, markers, crayons, etc.

**Scouts (K-2) -** Draw a picture of yourself being brave. Can you be brave when you go to school and don't want to? Can you be brave when you have to take a test? Can you be brave when you need to tell the truth? Can you be brave when doing hard things?

**Leaders say:** *"God is ready to listen. We can pray first and ask Him to help us be brave. He will always be with us!"*

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**Navigators (3-5) in Campfire –** On a piece of paper, finish this sentence. ***"I can be brave when…"***

**Examples:** trying something new, standing up for a friend, telling the truth, doing something hard

**Leaders say:** *"God is ready to listen. We can pray first and ask Him to help us be brave. He will always be with us!"*

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## **Leave No Trace** – End of the Hour

- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- **Thank them** for coming and **encourage them to invite a friend** and come back next week!
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting on their parents.