

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:

HE

CAN ANYTHING DEFEAT GOD?
No! God is all-powerful. There is nothing or no one anywhere who is more powerful than He is.

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.

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?
Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

©2026 Awana® Clubs International. This document may be reproduced only by churches registered with Awana.

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

©2026 Awana® Clubs International. This document may be reproduced only by churches registered with Awana.

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."*

©2026 Awana® Clubs International. This document may be reproduced only by churches registered with Awana.

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)

©2026 Awana® Clubs International. This document may be reproduced only by churches registered with Awana.

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!

©2026 Awana® Clubs International. This document may be reproduced only by churches registered with Awana.

Review

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.

©2026 Awana® Clubs International. This document may be reproduced only by churches registered with Awana.