

DEBORAH LEADS

BIBLE PASSAGE *(JUDGES 4–5)*

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, and though Sisera fled he was stopped.

Today's Brite Idea is: God is victorious.

MONTHLY Memory Verse

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)

BIG QUESTION

Will God ever fail us? No, never!

HE — God always wins.

WE — God helps us.

ME — God helps me.

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LEADER TRAINING: KEEP IT SHORT AND SWEET

Jesus often spoke in simple, memorable ways. He used parables, short phrases and repeatable truths. Following His lead, our instructions can be both clear and kind. Short and sweet is effective and Christlike.

- **Clarity is kindness.** When instructions run on and on, preschoolers get lost or distracted. Keep your words simple so kids can follow easily.
- **Use short, focused phrases.** Instead of: "Okay friends, in just a minute we're going to move over to the rug so we can read our story together, and I need you all to be listening carefully while we do that," try: "Friends, it's story time! Let's walk to the rug." Same goal, fewer words, more impact.
- **Repeat and reinforce.** Young kids thrive when expectations are simple and repeated.
- **Add motion or cues.** Use fun phrases or gestures like: "Eyes on me!" "Hands in lap." "Walking feet." These small signals guide behavior without it being overwhelming.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: VIOLENCE

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Judge: a person chosen by God to lead His people

Victorious: having won a challenge or battle

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. Some may even engage in troublesome behavior. Media and entertainment have desensitized many to violence and, unfortunately, many kids live with the reality of violence in their everyday lives. In today's Bible story, preschoolers may be confused about why someone gets hurt. Focus on how God never fails even when bad things happen. Help preschoolers start to form a biblical worldview that can be a strong foundation when difficult things happen. God is greater than anything, any bad, evil or violence. God is still bigger and is still faithful. Remember, if a kid mentions abuse or violence that has happened to them, report that immediately and find help for the family.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

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(JUDGES 4–5)

Use the Bible story cards to teach the Bible story or read the script to the kids.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Judge: a person chosen by God to lead His people

Victorious: having won a challenge or battle

Say: God's people made it to the Promised Land, the place God had promised to His people. But once there, they forgot all that God had done for them. Oh no! Shake your head from side to side. The Israelites did bad things and did not follow God's ways.

Say: So God let another king and his army take over where God's people were. The king was bad and mean. For 20 years, God's people asked God to help them. God sent a woman named Deborah to help. Can you say, Deborah? "Deborah!"

Say: Deborah told a man named Barak, "God has told you to fight this battle. He will help you beat the enemy." Can you clap your hands? Hooray! Barak said he would go only if Deborah came too. Deborah said yes! The leader heard they were coming and got ready for battle.

Say: Deborah told Barak, "Get ready! God will help you win." Let's point up to the sky! When Barak attacked, God made the enemy army afraid. The Israelites had won! Even when the leader tried to get away and hid, he was stopped too! No one is greater than God!



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God wins every battle He fights. Jesus won the greatest battle of all when He came to rescue us from our sin!

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WRAP-UP:

? BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll? 1, 2, 3.. drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image and Answer.

Say: Will God ever fail us? No, never!



God always wins. God helps us. God helps me.

VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Motion Video after the verse is read.

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- For nothing *(shake finger "no")*
- will be *(spread arms out again)*
- impossible *(cross arms in front of you again)*
- with God. *(point up)*
- Luke 1:37 *(open hands like a book)*

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