

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 6 • Week 3

DEBORAH—RELIANCE ON GOD

OBJECTIVE:

To teach us to rely on God by the story of Deborah, a prophetess of Israel.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Play a game of Silent Scriptures or Bible Charades. Place the following topics on slips of paper: wisdom, Deborah, judge, jail, palm tree, sheep, shepherd, army, battles, escape, singing, celebration. Pass the slips of paper out in order since they reflect the story line. Have the students take turns acting out or portraying what is on their slip, while the rest of the class tries to guess.

BIBLE LESSON:

Props: Paper palm tree or a real potted palm
Paper chariot (use directions in lesson application to make one)
Milk in a fancy cup

Say: Deborah was a courageous woman. The wife of Lappidoth and a mother, she was a judge, leader and prophetess of Israel. She was known for her wisdom. She relied on God. She sat under a palm tree [show palm tree] and the people came to her to settle disagreements and legal cases. She would pray to God for wisdom and direction and then settle their difficulties.

The times were difficult and harsh. Village life had ceased and people could no longer travel safely. Jabin, a Canaanite king, had cruelly oppressed the children of Israel for 20 years and the children of Israel cried out to God for help.

Deborah sent for Barak and told him, "Barak, I have a message from God for you! Take an army of 10,000 and fight commander Sisera and King Jabin's Army!" Barak looked a little worried and said, "Not unless you go too, Deborah."

- Ask: Where was Barak's courage and faith in God? Does it sound like he was depending on Deborah to rely on God?
- Say: He trusts in her, she trusts in God. Deborah replied, "OK, but I'm warning you, you won't get the credit, there will be no honor to you for winning this. The Lord will let a woman kill commander Sisera."
- Ask: Do both boys and girls need to develop their wisdom and courage? How do they do this?
- Say: By relying on God—His wisdom and His Word in the Bible.
- We read in Judges 4:13 "So Sisera gathered together all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth Hagoyim to the River Kishon."
- Ask: Does it sound like Sisera put a lot of faith in his fancy iron chariots? His war machines? (Show your paper chariot.)
- Say: Let's read Judges 4:14. "Then Deborah said to Barak, 'Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD gone out before you?' So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him."
- Ask: So who is winning now? Who made it happen?
- Say: Verse 15 reads "And the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot."
- What? Did the brave commander Sisera run away?
- Judges 4:16 says, "But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left."
- The entire army wiped out! And only Sisera escapes!
- Judges 4:17-19 "However, Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, 'Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; do not fear.' And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a blanket. Then he said to her, 'Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.' So she opened a jug of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him."
- Ask: Do you think she gave milk to him in a fancy cup? [Show your cup of milk now.]
- Say: Yes, she did. The Bible tells us this in the song of victory celebration (Judges 5:25.)

Do: Summarize Judges 4:20-23 without going into the details of how Sisera was executed.

Ask: Was it a total victory? Who made it a victory?

Say: Then Deborah and Barak sang a song of celebration saying things like: Bless the Lord. Praise the Lord. The earth trembled and the heavens poured water. Deborah took command like a mother. And when Sisera asked for water Jael gave him cream in a "lordly bowl."

Ask: Will God be with us today just as He was during the time of Deborah?

Say: God tells us in the New Testament that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

Ask: When the apostle Paul was in need, did he depend on God to supply all those needs through Jesus Christ?

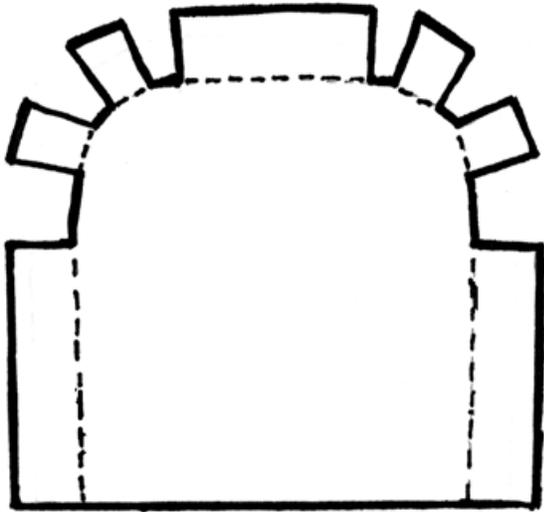
Let's read Philippians 4:12, 19: "I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.... And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Say: Remember, God and Jesus love us very much. They will always be there to help us. And God will give us everything we really need when we come before His very merciful throne in prayer, asking for what we need in the name of Jesus Christ.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Supplies: Copies of chariot parts
Crayons, colored pencils or markers
Scissors
Glue

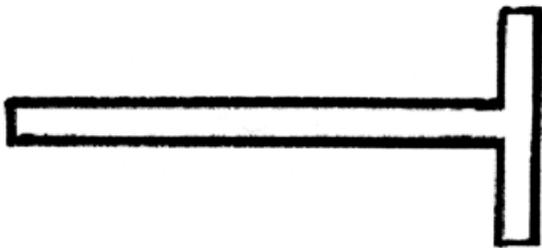
1. Color and/or decorate chariot if desired.
2. Cut out chariot parts.
3. Fold tabs of chariot floor along dotted lines.
4. Glue chariot side to tabs of the chariot floor.
5. Glue wheels onto chariot sides.
6. Glue hitch onto underside of chariot floor.



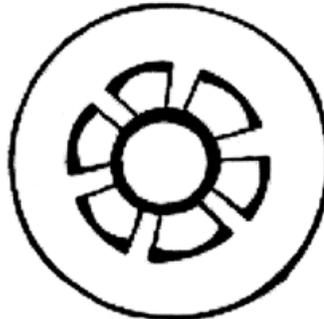
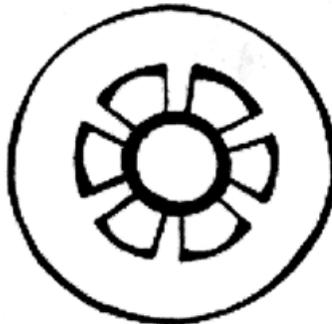
Chariot floor (fold on dotted lines)



Chariot side (curved side up)



Chariot hitch



Music:

Sing the following song or teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

"Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho"

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, and the walls came a tumbling down.

You may talk about your men of Gideon,
You may talk about your mighty men of Saul.
But there's none like good old Joshua,
At the battle of Jericho.

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho and the walls came a tumbling down.

Up to the walls of Jericho,
He marched with spear in hand.
Go blow those ram's horns, Joshua cried,
For the battle is in my hand.

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho and the walls came a tumbling down.

Then the lamb- ram- sheep horns began to blow,
And the trumpets began to sound.
Joshua commanded the children to shout,
And the walls came a tumbling down.

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho and the walls came a tumbling down.

MEMORY VERSE:

2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."

family activity

THE POINT:

To teach us to rely on God by the story of Deborah, a prophetess of Israel.

ASK ME...

What message from God did Deborah have for Barak?

What was it like for the children of Israel living under the rule of King Jabin?

What happened during the battle?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Look at a new car lot. Talk about how 900 fancy chariots (or tanks) could not save Sisera. Rely on God, not on fancy cars or on technically superior war machines like tanks.

Go to an air show or a military museum. These are impressive, but would you rely on things or would you rely on God?

Fill in the blanks:

Judges 4:8-9 "And Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, then ___ _____ ___; but if you will not go with me, I will not go! So she said, 'I will surely _____ you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the LORD will sell _____ into the hand of a _____.' Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh."

Judges 4:14 "Then Deborah said to _____, 'Up! For this is the _____ in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD _____ before you?' So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with _____ men following him."

Judges 4:17-19 "However, Sisera had fled away on foot to the _____ of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was _____ between Jabin king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. And Jael went out to meet _____, and said to him, 'Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; do not _____.' And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a blanket. Then he said to her, 'Please give me a little _____ to drink, for I am thirsty.' So she opened a jug of _____, gave him a drink, and covered him."

MEMORY VERSE:

2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."