

Adventures with GOD!

DEBORAH (B.2.FALL.7)

Biblical Reference	Judges 4:4-9, 4:13-15
Key Verse	Romans 8:28
Key Concept	When I can trust God and obey Him without fear gives me the victory through the test.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell the story of Deborah. 2. Explain that brave followers of God listen, trust & obey. 3. Discover one way to praise God is by singing.

Life Application

Deborah served God and Israel as a judge, prophet, and spiritual leader 200 years after the Israelites left Egypt. Deborah guided encouraged the Israelites to give themselves to God and she gave God the glory for their victory over Sisera, the general of Jabins army, the enemy of Israel. Deborah obeyed God and acted without fear, because she knew God. From this story we learn that God is with us, ready to help us in every circumstance in life and lead us through times of difficulty. God deserves our praise and gratitude. This week the children will remember that a brave follower of God listens, trusts and obeys even though the road ahead may not be easy. .

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Romans 8:26 handout, puzzle	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Deborah illustration, construction paper (Brown & Green), glue, scissors	25 minutes
Bible Verse	Romans 8:26 handout	5 minutes
Song		5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: Cut the Romans 8:28 verse into a puzzle. Have children put it together and reflect on the verse.

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Judges 4:4-9 & 4:13-15 Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond prior to moving Bible Exploration.

Bible Exploration:

1. Circle time – gather children into a circle.

Ask: (While putting your head to your ear) What do we have to do to hear God when God speak us? (Listen)

Have children put a hand to one of their ears. See if they can hear and repeat the phrases below as you WHIPSER them.

God loves you

God made you

God is with you

We can hear God's word... when we listen

Now invite the children to put their hands over their hearts.

Explain: After we listen to God we also need to TRUST what God tells us. Trust is believing that what God tells us is true. Now put your hands down. I am going to whisper some words again. If you trust and believe that these words of God are true then put your hands over your heart.

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God says...I love you
God says...I made you
God says...I am always with you
God says...I will guide if you listen

Now invite the children to march in place.

Explain: After we listen to God and trust what God tells us – we need to obey or do what God tells us. Marching shows we are ready to obey and do what God tells us. I'm going to say some words again. If you are ready to obey and do what God tells you then march in place.

God says...be kind to others
God says...receive my forgiveness
God says...forgive others
God says...listen
God says...trust me
God says...obey me because I love you

2. Table time – move to a table(s) and give the children the illustration of Deborah. Have them color this while you explore Deborah's story together. Explain that they will also need to listen carefully for 3 words – Listen, Trust, Obey. When they hear LISTEN – have them put their hands on their ears. When they hear TRUST - hands over their heart. When they hear OBEY – stomp feet.

Explain: Deborah was Israel's leader. She was called a judge. She sat under a palm tree.

Note: You may wish to add Palm Tree to the illustration. You will need brown and green construction paper. You can also cut out figure of Deborah and glue her and the Palm Tree on a separate piece of paper (working on an illustration of the story while you are telling it gives children a visual reminder and helps them remember the story).

Deborah listened to God. Deborah trusted God. Deborah obeyed God. One day God told her that if she and the Israelites listened, trusted and obeyed, God would free them from their enemy King Jabin of Canaan.

Ask: After Deborah listened to God, do you remember who she called? Barak (the leader of the Israelites Army). When Barak heard that he and the army were to go out and defeat Sisera the general of Jabins army – he was afraid.

Ask: I wonder why Barak was afraid?

Explain: It was hard for Barak to trust God. Sisera had a very big and powerful army with 900 chariots. Barak said he would do it but only if Deborah came with him.

Ask: I wonder why Barak wanted Deborah with him? I wonder what Deborah was like?

Explain: God was asking the Israelites to obey and be brave followers but what God was asking would not be easy to do.

Ask: I wonder if God ever asks us to do something that are hard to do (Give children time to respond)

Explain: Sometimes it's easier to do hard things together. But even when we are alone, God is still with us.

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Ask: Do you remember what happened when Deborah, Barak and the Israelites listened, trusted and obeyed God and went out to meet Sisera and his army? (God threw them into a panic and they fled)

Ask: I wonder when the people Israelites listened, trusted and obeyed, did God keep his promise? What promises has God made to you?

Bible Verse: (Romans 8:26 handout) Review the words – say them together and ask the children what they mean.

Song: Deborah praises God through song (Judges 5) Explain we can also thank and praise God through song. Either sing a familiar song together or invite the children to make one up.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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ILLUSTRATION



**"Listen, YOU KINGS!
Listen to me, you are the rulers!
I WILL sing to the Lord! I will sing the God of Israel! "
(Judges 5:3)**

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ILLUSTRATION
Deborah



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Verse – Romans 8:28 (Cut words to make puzzle)

We know that
in all things
God works
for the good
of those who
love him.

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He appointed
them to be
saved in
keeping with
his purpose.