

Adventures with GOD!

DEBORAH, THE LIBERATING HERO (C.3.FALL.9)

Biblical Reference	Judges 4:1-10, 14-24
Key Verse	Judges 5:31
Key Concept	As a true hero I need to be obedient to God's voice
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name various heroes of the faith 2. Explain the role of Deborah 3. Make a list of different ways to resolve disputes

Life application

Our limitations, just as much as our strengths and abilities are part of how God chooses to use us for the kingdom of God. God can use anyone that is willing to be used. If the situation requires more than one person, it's important to join together and ask for help from other people. Our strengths and our weaknesses can be used by God. As we listen to God's voice, we are called to obey despite our limitations. Deborah and Barak were used by God to once again free the people of Israel. The children will learn that they followed God's lead and worked together.

Possible activities and class plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction		5 minutes
Group work	Activity sheet	5 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Bible verse	See instructions	10 minutes
Project	See instruction	10 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute



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INSTRUCTIONS

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: Explain that as we read the Bible we do so 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 biblical reference for the day (Judges 4:1-10) two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

Introduction: Start by sharing a personal experience about a time when you learned an important lesson. Maybe you learned from a mistake, only to repeat the same mistake (or make a bad decision) again. Ask the children if they have ever experienced the same thing. Ask the question, "why is it so hard for us to do the right thing some times? Why is it hard for us to learn to stop sinning and follow God?"

Then, ask them what a judge is and what a judge does. How do we settle disputes or arguments? There is a book in the Old Testament that is called Judges. It is filled with stories of people who acted as judges in Israel. Some of them were known not so much for their ability to rule as spiritual or legal leaders, but rather as military leaders. As we see in the Old Testament, many times the Israelites lost their way and started doing wrong in God's eyes. God would send a nation to rule over them. And in response they would reach out to God asking for help, for rescuing. God would send a judge to lead them and for awhile they would follow God, but then the pattern would start all over again. After Ehud freed the people from the king of Moab, there were 80 years of peace. Do you think during these 80



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years the Israelites learned their lesson? No! Once again they did wrong in the eyes of God and God gave them over to Jabin king of Canaan.

Group work: Give them a copy of the activity sheet, “Who is it?” so that they can work on it in teams. They need to find the letters that are missing in order to discover the name of the hero in today’s lesson.

Bible exploration: Today the Bible story will focus on a woman named Deborah. She was a judge. She was a very well respected judge. She made the decision to send Barak to lead the army, but he wasn’t even willing to lead if she did not go with them. Even though in this time women were often looked at as inferior to men, God did not have the same opinion. God used a woman to lead the people of God. It’s clear that as humans we often don’t see things the same way that God does. Many times we don’t think certain things or people have value, but God reminds us otherwise.

Before you read the story, create the scene. Set up a tent (or use sheets and chairs to make a homemade tent.)

Read together a section of the story of Deborah which continues in Judges 4:14-24. Focus on the ways that God delivered Israel, under the leadership of Deborah. Review who the people in the story were, what their roles were, etc. Talk about how God used Deborah and Barak? Why is it important to recognize that they worked together? Why did Barak ask Deborah to go with him? What characteristics of a true hero do we see?

Bible verse: Together memorize the Bible verse (Judges 5:31). Provide 3 different stations, with different options for learning the verse. At one station they can illustrate the verse with a picture/drawing, art work. At another station they can make up actions to the verse, and at another station they can play a game (use one of the games recommended in the introduction to the trimester.)

Project: Continue to work together on your dramas or games for the final project of the trimester. Use games to review the heroes they’ve learned about up until this point. Give them time to write out or illustrate the story of Deborah.

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)

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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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ACTIVITY SHEET

WHO IS IT?

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)

1. The Israelites consulted with her about difficult ___isputes between the tribes. This person helped to create unity and settle disagreements
2. Sh___ was the wife of Lappidoth.
3. She called on ___arak to give him a message from God.
4. The Lord had given the Israelites over to King Jabin, because they continually disobeyed God and went their own ways. Even though she wasn't the commanding officer she ___rganized an attack against the capitan of the army, Sisera.
5. As a prophet, she ___evealed God's will to the people of God.
6. Because Barak insisted she ____cpanied him to battle.
7. The battle ended in victory for the Israelites who were lead by t___is person.



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ILLUSTRATION
DEBORAH

