**Large Group October 8**

**Bible Teaching: Deborah**

**Bible Passage: Judges 4**

**Bible Teaching 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 that he was supposed 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.

**brite\* Idea: God is victorious.**

**Monthly Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:6b**

*I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god.*

**Focus Verses: 1 John 4:4, Matthew 19:26, Zephaniah 3:17**

**He Question: Is anyone or anything greater than God?**

No! God is all-powerful. There is nothing or no one anywhere who is more powerful than He is.

**We Question:** **How can we face tough times in life?**

We can trust that God loves us. He is always with us. He fights for us and He is more powerful than anything we battle.

**Me Question: What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?**

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

**Leader Tips: Seek to Understand**

When a kid acts out in some way, it can be easy to jump to negative conclusions about the behavior. When this happens, we miss the opportunity to extend compassion and seek to understand. There is always a motivation behind the choices a kid makes, and it often has to do with needs that they are trying to meet. For instance, a kid may feel insecure about not knowing the answer to something so they cause a distraction. A kid may not get a lot of attention in their everyday life so they seek out attention, even if they have to do something negative to get it. A kid may feel rejected by their peers, so they respond to them in anger or frustration. Take time to prayerfully consider what might be behind the behaviors you observe so that you can respond out of care and compassion, addressing the real need rather than simply trying to eliminate the behavior.

**Navigating a Broken World: Violence**

Unfortunately, violence is prevalent in our culture. A recent study revealed that 60% of kids had witnessed abuse, violence or crime.[\*](https://www.ojp.gov/program/programs/cev) 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, but unfortunately many kids live with the reality of it 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 towards 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.

**https://www.ojp.gov/program/programs/cev**

**Large Group Experiences Overview**

 **Welcome:**

*Supplies Needed: 2 balloons, video player*

**Find it in the Bible**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides*

**Bible Teaching:**

God raised up Deborah to judge Israel. She went with Barak into battle. The general escaped but was killed by a woman.

*Supplies Needed: Bible*

**Bible Teaching Review:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player*

**Bible Teaching Wrap-Up:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player*

**SPLASH FLOW**

Note: Advance slide at hi lighted lines

Theme Slide

**Kid’s Enter**

 Welcome and encourage to play games/interact with other kids and teachers

**Gather kids into their age groups**

 Do the “Belong” activity with the 2 groups

Play Countdown **when groups are winding down with their “Belong” activity and gather them into the main teaching area**

**Quick Welcome, ask to stand up, then Play worship videos**

Video: “See A Victory”

Video: “What A Beautiful Name It Is”

Offering

Theme Slide

**Ask all to sit, then teach through “Bible Teaching” section below**

**Welcome**

**Supplies:** 2 balloons

**Prep:** Divide your group into two with everyone remaining seated where they are.

**Say:** We are going to begin with an intense competition. I’m going to divide our group into two halves. The first person in the first row will get a balloon. When I say go, you must pass the balloon down each row all the way to the back of the room. Everyone should stay seated and every person on your team must touch the balloon to win.

*Hand the balloon to the first person on each side and say “Go!” Encourage teams to cheer for each other as the balloon is passed.*

**Say:** And the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ side is victorious! Great job working together and being victorious in this competition! For those of you who lost, I’m so sorry and I know that’s tough. Our friends in today’s episode of Sugar Rush also are going through something tough. Let’s check it out.

**Intro Video**

 *Play the Intro video, then follow the script below****.***

**Say:** Gracie is really going through a tough time, and they didn’t even do anything wrong!

**Ask:** Have you ever gone through a tough time?

**Say:** It can be hard when we face tough times in life. Today, we will learn that even in tough times, God is victorious.

**brite\* idea: God is victorious.**

**Today we will answer these two questions:**

Is anyone or anything greater than God?

How can we face tough times in life?

**And at the end of our time today, the question you will be able to answer is:**

What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?

**Find It in the Bible**

**What is the Bible?**

The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so that we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but it’s all a part of one BIG story—God’s Story.

**What is God’s Bigger Story?**

**Creation:** God is the Creator of all things, and He is very good.

**Fall:** Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world and people were separated from God. All people have sinned so the relationship with God is broken for each of us.

**Redemption:** People could not fix their sin problem on their own. God promised all throughout the Old Testament that He would send a Rescuer, a Messiah, to save the people from their sin. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

**Restoration:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God can be made right again. We don’t do anything to earn it and we don’t deserve it. God restores us through His grace. One day, Jesus will return and restore the whole broken world, making it new again.

**New Feature to help the kids learn the books of the Bible**

Say: Now before we find out where today’s Bible story comes from, we have a fun video to help us learn all the Bible books in order! Are ready?!! Here we go!!!

**Play 66 Books In The Bible Song video**

The video can be viewed at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pXpdFgxlbg>
or on our Brite page.

**Where is today’s Bible story?**

Today’s true story from the Bible is found in the book of Judges. Judges is called a historical book of the Bible. Last week, we learned about how the Israelites finally moved into the land God had promised. Judges tells the story of Israel’s days living in the land and their struggle to obey God. Because Judges is in the Old Testament, today’s story happened before Jesus came to earth.

*Open a Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Judges. Then, show them how to get to today’s Bible passage (Judges 4).*

**Bible Teaching: Deborah**

**Bible Passage:** Judges 4

**Supplies:** None

**Prep:** Have kids get in small groups of 8-10 kids each, mixing ages so older kids can help younger ones follow along.

**Say:** The book of Judges tells about a dark time in Israel’s history. The people fell into a terrible pattern. Let’s talk about the pattern, and then we will see it lived out in today’s story.

*Lead kids through the following rhythm:*

*God provides (Clap hands)*

*We walk away (Pat legs)*

*Enemies attack (Stomp feet)*

*We cry out (Rub hands together)*

*God rescues. (Clap hands)*

*Have kids practice this pattern all together several times. It’s okay if kids are only able to catch onto the motions, but not all the words.*

**Say:** God’s people settled into the Promised Land that God had provided for them. *Have kids clap hands and say “God provides.”*

**Say:** But the Israelites quickly forgot all that God had done for them. They turned away from Him and chose to worship other gods. *Have kids pat their legs and say, “We walk away.”*

**Say:** When this happened, God allowed them to be taken over by an enemy. *Have kids stomp their feet and say, “Enemies attack.”*

**Say:** The people would cry out to God for help. *Have kids rub hands together and say, “We cry out.”*

**Say:** God would raise up a leader, called a judge, to deliver them from the enemy. Have kids clap their hands, and say, “God rescues.” They would live at peace until they turned from God again. This pattern happened over and over. *Have kids clap their hands and say, “God rescues.”*

*Have kids repeat the pattern all together once more. Then, in their groups, have them start “passing” the pattern around the circle so that only one person does each part and the person to their left does the next part. Have them practice passing like this, until all groups catch on.*

**Say:** Now that we’ve learned it, let’s see this pattern play out in today’s story from Judges 4.The Israelites had been living in peace in the land God provided for many years. *Have kids clap hands and say, “God provides.”*

**Say:** The Israelites again did evil things. *Have kids pat their legs and say, “We walk away.”*

**Read Judges 4:2-3 directly from the Bible,** *And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.*

*Have kids stomp their feet, and say, “Enemies attack.”*

**Say:** And the Israelites cried out to God.

*Have groups pass around the pattern, making it just once around, and then stopping on the second time around they recite “We cry out.”*

**Say:** God raised up a woman named Deborah to be the judge over Israel. Deborah summoned a man named Barak and said, “God has commanded you to gather 10,000 men. He will draw Sisera the general out and deliver him over to you.” Barak responded that he would go, but only if Deborah came too. Deborah agreed, but told him that the Lord would use a woman to take down Sisera.

**Say:** Barak and Deborah led their army of 10,000 men. Sisera heard they were coming and prepared his army.

**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, except Sisera jumped from his chariot and escaped on foot. He 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 with a tent peg and a hammer. She drove the tent peg through his head, killing him! Barak came by, searching for Sisera. Jael showed him what she had done. God had, indeed, used a woman to defeat the commander of the army! Israel was free! *Have kids clap hands and say, “God rescues.”*

**Say:** Israel defeated Jabin and the Canaanite army. Deborah and Barak sang a great song, praising God for His victory. They sang:

**Read Judges 5:3 directly from the Bible,** *“Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; to the Lord I will sing; I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel.*

*Have kids clap hands and say, “God rescues.”*

POINT TO JESUS

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. (*Have groups pass around the pattern, making it just once around.)* 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! *(Have groups pass around the pattern, stopping after the “God restores”.)* When we accept Jesus, we’re forgiven and we live as kids of God. (*Repeat the pattern one last time.)*

**Bible Teaching: Review**

**Watch the Bible Story Review Video and then play the game below.**

**Label the corners of the room A, B, C, D. Kids will choose their answer by going to stand in the correct corner.**

1. When the Israelites would turn away from God, what would happen?
2. They would be taken over by enemies.
3. They would call out to God.
4. God would raise up a judge to save them.
5. **All of the above**

*The Israelites followed this awful pattern over and over again. God raised up judges, including Deborah, to deliver His people.*

1. When Deborah told Barak that God was calling him to attack Sisera, the general, who did Barak say had to go with him?
2. No one b. **Deborah** c.Jael d. Jabin

*Barak insisted that Deborah go to the battle with him. She agreed, but warned him that God would actually raise up a woman to take out Sisera.*

1. What did God do to the Canaanite army?
2. **He caused them to panic.** B. He turned them into frogs

 c. He let them win. D. He squished them with rocks.

1. What did Jael use to kill the general, Sisera?
2. A sword b. Poison c. **A hammer and tent peg** d. A bow and arrow

*While Sisera was asleep, Jael used the hammer to drive the tent peg through his head, killing him, and ensuring Israel’s victory.*

1. What is greater than God?
2. Enemies of Godb. Sin c. People **d. Nothing**

*No! God is all-powerful. There is nothing or no one anywhere who is more*

*powerful than He is.*

1. What did Barak and Deborah do after the battle?
2. **Sang a song**. b. Took a nap. C. Got a trophy. d. Had a parade.

*Deborah and Barak sang a beautiful song to God, praising Him for being*

*victorious in the battle.*

1. What can we remember when we face tough times?
2. God loves us.
3. God fights for us.
4. God is more powerful than anything we battle.
5. **All of the above.**

**Bible Teaching: Wrap-Up**

**The brite\* idea for the day is:** God is victorious.

**Memory Verse:**

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

*I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god. (Isaiah 44:6b)*

Watch the Memory Melody video.

**Teaching Wrap-Up**

**HE QUESTION: Is anyone or anything greater than God?** No! God is all-powerful. There is nothing or no one anywhere who is more powerful than He is.

**WE QUESTION: How can we face tough times in life?** We can trust that God loves us. He is always with us. He fights for us and He is more powerful than anything we battle.

**Prayer**

God, You are victorious in everything! We praise You! We thank You! When we face tough situations this week, help us remember that You are bigger and stronger than anything. Help us trust in You. Amen.

**As time permits…**

**Gather kids into their 2 age groups**

 Do the “Believing” activity with the 2 groups

 AND/OR

 *Do the “Becoming” activity with the 2 groups DEPENDING UPON TIME AVAILABLE*

***HAND OUT TAKE HOME SHEETS at end of class***