



MOSAIC Gospel Project

Volume 3, Unit 9, Lesson 2: Deborah and Barak

Bible Passage: Judges 4-5

Personal Preparation

The time of the judges continued after the death of Ehud. The Israelites fell into a continuous cycle of sin, bondage, deliverance, and peace. Every judge was imperfect, yet God worked through the judges. At the time when the Israelites were oppressed by the king of Canaan, Deborah was the judge of Israel. Deborah sent for Barak and encouraged him to take up an army and fight the army of Canaan and its leader, Sisera.

Deborah reminded Barak that God would hand Sisera and his troops over to him (Judg. 4:6-7). Barak agreed to go, but only if Deborah went with him. Deborah went, but she informed Barak that he would get no glory for the battle. When Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men, “The Lord threw Sisera . . . and all of his army into a panic before Barak’s assault” (Judg. 4:15). Everyone in the army died, but Sisera escaped on foot.

Sisera fled to the tent of Jael, who invited him inside and gave him a drink. While Sisera slept, Jael drove a tent peg through his temple and he died.

Judges 5 records a victory song Deborah and Barak sang on that day praising God for defeating the Canaanites. The land had rest for 40 years.

The Israelites’ sin had resulted in 20 years of defeat. God fought for the Israelites and used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to accomplish the Israelites’ victory over Canaan. As you teach the group this week, highlight the actions of

Deborah and Barak, who willingly served God and used their gifts for his glory.

Emphasize that God uses people and events to save us not only from our enemies, but also to bring about our ultimate good: salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Thank God that he uses sinners like us for his perfect plans. Thank him for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin and death. Pray that the individuals would know that God has already defeated our greatest enemies, sin and death. Pray that the individuals would let God use them to do his will.

Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by reviewing the memory verse.

1 John 1:9

“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

Points of Emphasis

1. God used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to rescue his people.
2. Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Activity #1

Guide the group to begin filling out the activity sheet. Feel free to allow the individuals to continue working as you teach the lesson.

Video

We learned last week that God’s people were pretty lost without good leaders. After Joshua died, God’s people repeatedly turned away from him. Thankfully, God is merciful. When they repented, God sent judges to rescue them from their enemies. This week, we will learn about the judge Deborah.

Play the video for the lesson titled “Deborah and Barak.”

Bible Lesson

Surprise, surprise! God’s people turned away from him again! This time, the people of Canaan took over the Israelites’ land. The king of Canaan was cruel, and soon God’s people remembered how much better their lives were when they followed God. God raised up Deborah—a prophetess and judge—to guide the people. She told Barak to lead the people into battle. Barak said he would obey if Deborah went with him. It seems Barak may not have trusted God fully to provide the victory. As a result, the honor for the battle would not go to Barak, but to a woman named Jael.

But here’s a question for you: Who really got the glory for winning the day? [Allow responses.] God did! It was God who threw Sisera’s army into confusion and chaos. God used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to rescue his people, but it was God who gave them victory. It is amazing to think that God uses us. Even though he is powerful enough to do everything on his own, he invites us to be a part of his perfect plans for the world. How cool is that?

Activity #2

Lead the group to finish working on the activity sheet. Practice the memory verse with them, and help them learn it. Encourage the individuals to put the verse together using the Velcro pictures.

Christ Connection

God does what is for his glory and our good. God fought for the Israelites and used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to defeat Canaan. In a similar way, God uses people and events to not only save us from our enemies, but also to teach us about our ultimate good: salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Review Questions

(Optional: Play today’s episode of Questions From Kids (QFK) to continue the discussion on Deborah, Barak, and Jael. Today’s episode asks how someone can help others when they are just a kid.)

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. **Who did God call to lead the army against Sisera?** Barak
2. **Who did Barak ask to come with him to the battle?** Deborah
3. **Who killed Sisera?** Jael
4. **Who deserves the glory for winning the battle?** God

Group B

1. **Why did God allow Canaan to overtake the Israelites?** The people did what was evil in God’s sight, so he allowed their enemies to conquer them.
2. **Why didn’t Barak get the honor for defeating Sisera and the army of Canaan?** He said he would only go where God told him to go if Deborah went with him.
3. **Who ended up getting the honor for killing Sisera?** Jael, a woman who was not an Israelite.
4. **Why did God keep rescuing his people if they kept turning away from him?** God is faithful and merciful. He loves even those who sin against him. He still planned to use the Israelites to send Jesus, so he showed his love to them.
5. **Whom does God use in his plans?** God can—and does—use all kinds of people.

In the story today, God used a man and two women. He used Israelites and non-Israelites. God is all-powerful and can use anyone in his plans. When we have faith, God will do great things in us and through us.

6. Why does God use people in his plans?

God doesn't need our help to do anything, but he lovingly includes us in his good work. We are blessed by the chance to participate in his plan to rescue sinners and glorify him. By using people, he shows his power to do amazing things through ordinary people.

Group C

1. **Why do you think God rescued his people after they turned away from him?** Invite the individuals to share their thoughts. Emphasize God's grace and mercy toward the undeserving Israelites and toward us—undeserving sinners—because of his great love for us. Remind them of the covenant God made with Israel.
2. **What kind of people does God use in his plan today?** God used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to defeat the enemy. All three contributed to the defeat of the Canaanite army, but God controlled the outcome. Today, God still uses people for his purposes—people who are willing to obey him.
3. **How can we show we trust God?** Trusting God means more than just saying you trust God. True trust in God means faith in action. We follow and obey God even when it's not easy because we believe he is in control of all things.

Group D

Advanced Learner

1. **What does this story teach us about God?** Our God saves! God used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to rescue his people. God confused the enemy's army and Israel won the battle. The Israelites defeated the Canaanites and lived in peace for 40 years. After the Israelites defeated Sisera and his army, they praised God. God has saved us from our greatest enemies: sin and death.

2. **Who did God use in his plan to give Israel victory against Canaan?** God sent Deborah, a judge and prophetess, to deliver the people. Deborah called for Barak to lead God's people to fight the Canaanites. God used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to rescue his people.
3. **What can you do to help someone who is suffering?**
4. **What gifts has God given you that you can use for the glory of God and the good of others?**

Prayer

God, thank you for saving your people. We know that all of us are sinners who turn away from you. Thank you for calling us back and sending Jesus to defeat sin and death. Help us to be filled with love for you. Make us quick to repent when we sin, and help us lovingly obey you more each day. Amen.

