

*Get Ready!***Deborah**

By: Annie Wagganer

Text

Judges 4 and 5

**Key Quest Verse**

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” (NIV)
1 Corinthians 10:31

Bible Background

During a time of sin and rebellion, God raised up Deborah as one of the 12 judges recorded in the book of Judges to deliver the Israelites from the Canaanite armies, led by Sisera. She called for Barak to be her general and together they led the Israelites to victory. Securing this victory, a woman named Jael killed Sisera by driving a tent peg through his temple as prophesied by Deborah that a woman would have the glory of the battle. In chapter 5 of Judges, Deborah and Barak celebrate the victory by singing “praise to the Lord God of Israel.” The entire book of Judges depicts a cycle that the Israelites often repeated, first falling into sin and judgment, then crying out for deliverance, God raising up a judge for spiritual renewal and to provide victory over their enemies, but then eventually the Israelites would fall into sin again.

Get Ready!

Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: They can influence others to accept and live for Christ.

Feel: Empowered by God's unmatched strength.

Do: Give God the glory for past and future victories in their lives.

Leader's Devotion

It's tough reading about the Israelites, basically watching them mess up time after time. Why was it so easy to lose sight of all the miracles God had provided for them? Why was God faithful time after time to deliver them from their enemies?

How is my lifestyle like the life-cycle of the Israelites? What miracles in my life have I lost sight of? Don't breeze over this question, take time to remember! Ask yourself again, what miracles in my life have I lost sight of? God was faithful to the Israelites, God is faithful in your life now, and God will be faithful in the lives of your students. Remember the miracles in your life and enthusiastically embrace this opportunity to share your faith throughout these lessons.

Get Set!



Option A

MILITARY HEROES

Materials: Bring any clothing/props that could be manifested into a soldier (ex: a cookie sheet for a shield, a pot for a helmet, a fishing pole for a sword, boots, etc.). If you have a class of more than five, make sure you have enough props for two teams.

Have one group or competing groups dress one person to be their image of a typical military leader. Make sure they have time to explain what their military hero is wearing and why. **Is their leader male or female? Which is typical? When Hollywood makes a war movie, who usually plays the leading role?**

Now turn to an atypical battle story in Judges 4. **Let’s read carefully and identify the military heroes. Is anyone surprised?**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

FAITH LISTS

Materials: Worksheet, *Hebrews 11:1*, pens for each teen, one sheet of poster board, a marker

First let the teens individually come up with their top ten list of things they have faith in...maybe it’s that the St. Louis Cardinal’s will win this years’ pennant or that they will graduate from college. Help them brainstorm and remind them of things you have faith in – that Jesus will return to the earth.

Then read the Bible story and afterwards identify where Deborah put her faith. Here are some possible points for your class list:

1. Deborah had faith in God to lead the Israelite army
2. Deborah had faith in God’s strength to win the battle
3. Deborah had faith that God would not abandon her or Barak while leading

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

Read Judges 4, summarizing periodically to help clarify the story.

Judges 4:1-4: The Israelites were disobedient to God who allowed them to be harshly oppressed by the Canaanites until they began to cry out for help.

Judges 4:4-6: As the judge of Israel at the time, Deborah called for Barak to be the general of the Israelite army and led the Israelites into battle to defeat the Canaanites. But, she let Barak know that the leader of the Canaanite army, Sisera, would not be defeated by him, but by a woman.

Judges 4:11-12: Under Deborah's leadership, Barak and the Israelite armies defeated ALL of Sisera's armies.

Judges 4:17-22: Sisera, trying to escape fled to where he thought he would be safe. Convinced he was safe in Jael's tent, she was able to kill him.

Judges 4:23-24: God provides complete victory for the Israelites over Jabin, king of Canaan.

Go!



Glory to God

DRAMA

Materials: A trophy, 3x5 cards, pens, a microphone on a stand, and the “*I would like to thank...*” worksheet

Procedure: First have each student think of an award they would like to be the recipient of (it can be actual, like a Grammy Award, or fiction, like the Most Kind-Hearted Teen Award) and write it down on the 3x5 card which you collect. Then give them a few minutes to write their own acceptance speech for their individual award. Finally, using the 3x5 cards, trophy and microphone, announce each winner and let them read their speeches for the class.

Quest Connection

How did it feel to win your award? Was it fun to think of people to thank? Was it easy or hard to remember everybody? While it’s usually nice to get an award, it can be just as if not harder to not get credit for something you’ve done really well. It’s hard not to be recognized for our accomplishments. It’s difficult to not resent someone when they don’t thank us for our kindness or generosity. Can you remember a time when it hurt not to get the honor for something you did, or maybe worse, when someone else got the credit for something you did? In Psalm 3:33 it says that all righteousness comes from God – without Him our works would be both in vain and often not even possible – it’s important as Christians to give Him the credit, the honor, the praise, the thanksgiving that He deserves. As our Heavenly Father, the one who provides us with life and all our needs, do you think it makes Him sad when He doesn’t get the credit He deserves?

Close

Let’s practice before we leave – think for a moment and then we’ll go around the room and share a moment we are thankful for God helping us to achieve.

Go!



Our Influence

OBJECT LESSON

Materials: Pictures of a pipe under a sink, a brick from a foundation, a hinge on a door, a plug on a stereo wire, a gear on a clock

Procedure: First take 3-5 minutes and have each student write down on a sheet of paper a list of every single person they come into contact with during a typical week – EVERY person counts, from their school cafeteria cook to their little sibling. Set the lists aside and then show each picture (either actual photographs or images printed off the Internet or even have a few of the actual objects) and let the students try to identify each one.

Quest Connection

It's amazing how much we can influence someone else's life without even knowing it. We may feel like no one pays attention to us or even knows we're there, but in order to get water, we need the pipe under the sink that no one sees just as much as we need the faucet, that everyone does see, above the sink. A door couldn't open without a hinge and a stereo couldn't play music without the plug connecting it to electricity. Sometimes, the same goes for each of us, but we just don't know it. We can't always see how we're making a difference, who is watching us, and how we affect others. Don't be discouraged! Deborah had Barak be the leader of the Israelite armies, but yet, she also told him he would not receive the glory for defeating Sisera, the leader of their enemies, the Canaanites. Who did kill Sisera? (Jael) That's right, not the leader, the one everyone looked to for direction, a woman who was probably unknown to the entire Israelite army! Who are some people who have positively influenced you but may not even be aware they have impacted your life?

Close

Now let's look at our lists that we made earlier in class. Does the amount of people on your list surprise you? God didn't have Deborah be a judge on accident and He hasn't misplaced His plan for you either. She positively impacted those in her sphere of influence, how can you be a positive influence in the lives of the people that you have contact with?

Go!

A Daily War



CREATIVE WRITING

Materials: Pens, the worksheet, “*Fighting to Remain God’s Territory*”

Quest Connection

When we think of war, we usually don’t think of ourselves as a possible cause for a war to begin. But actually, each one of us who are followers of Christ, face battles everyday that are part of a bigger war, one being fought over who we will give our allegiance.

Procedure: Pass out pens and worksheets to every student. Let’s look at what different elements are involved in a war (middle column). Now let’s think about our own lives and how it’s often a battle to choose Side A, Christianity, over Side B, The World. For each of the elements of war, what are specific examples we could list in either column A or column B.

Close

It seems that sometimes Jr. High and High school is the time in our lives when we face a lot of battles; we have a ton of opportunities to choose Christ over the world, but it is so very, very tough. Luckily, God will provide us with His strength just as He did for Deborah and the Israelites. Even if we know we have the ultimate victory, eternal life, why is it still so hard to choose to follow Christ in the little daily battles? Let’s pray silently for God to help us this week choose His way over the world’s.

Go!**And the Verdict is . . .****CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: Local news story of a pending trial, paper and pens

Procedure: Discuss the local (or national) trial, allowing students to share what they've heard in the media and at school. Now give them pen and paper and have them write down their own verdict, if they had to decide at this moment, is it innocent or guilty? Compare answers with each other and allow for discussion.

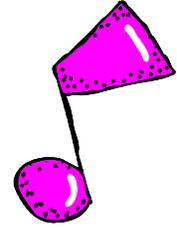
Quest Connection

Being a judge seems like a particularly hard job to have, deciding the fate of different people's lives. Anyone think they would enjoy it? What would be the hardest part?

Let's read another story about a judge that Jesus told in Luke 18:1-8. God is the ultimate judge, and in this parable Jesus tells His disciples, that even an unjust judge eventually gives in to a persistent request and grants justice; therefore, God who loves and cares for His children hears our requests for justice and is quick to answer us. We need to remain faithful to God, even in times it seems we aren't getting the justice we deserve, Jesus said that God does hear us and will answer us.

Close

We are incredibly lucky to have a judge who cares for us and pours out His grace for us. God is a judge who provided a way for us to be pardoned for our sins through the death and resurrection of His Son. Let's make sure we praise Him before leaving for being a just judge. Close in prayer.

Go!**Marching Into Battle****MUSIC**

Materials: CD player and a variety of Christian worship CDs, snacks for listening enjoyment, pens and paper, thick magic marker and a piece of poster board

Procedure: Let your students know in advance this is their opportunity to share their Christian music, any style, with each other. Suggest that everyone bring in their favorite song and take turns listening to each others music.

Quest Connection

After their victory over the Canaanites, Deborah and Barak sang a song of celebration, praising God and recounting the victory. Let's read that song in Judges 5. How does this compare with the lyrics of Christian worship music today? Let's tackle the challenge of writing this in our own words. (Pass out pens and paper). Collaboratively, rewrite Judges 5 as a class and have one student write your finished product on the poster board to hang in your classroom.

Close

Music is a very personal expression. It can connect us to another person because we have the same taste, or it can make us angry because someone else doesn't want to allow us to listen to what we like. But it can also be an especially pleasing way to praise God. Today during the worship service, pay attention to the words you sing and focus on celebrating who God is and His strength just like Deborah and Barak did.

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen"

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

Fighting the War to remain God's Territory

Side A

Christianity

- Elements of War**
- Opposing Sides
 - Disagreement/Conflict
 - Injuries/Casualties
 - Weapons
 - Fear
 - Danger
 - Leaders
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -

Side B

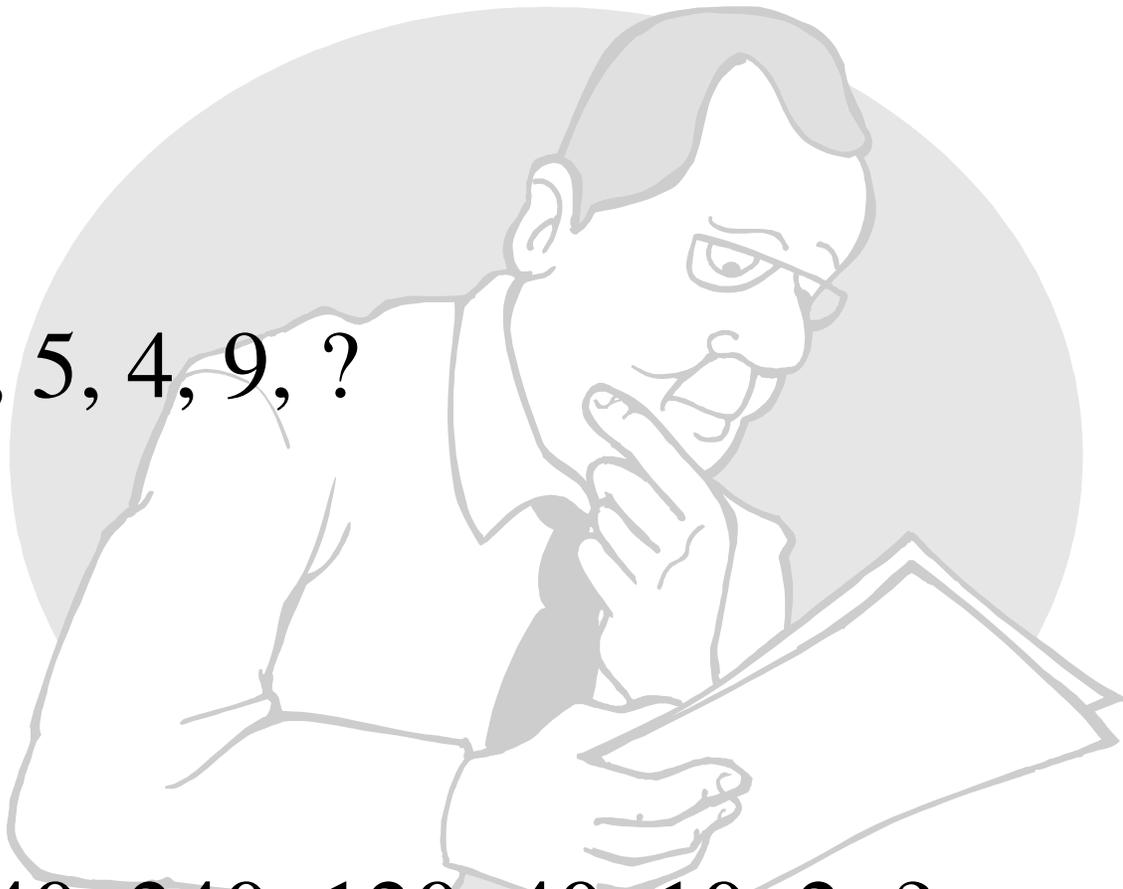
The World

What comes next?

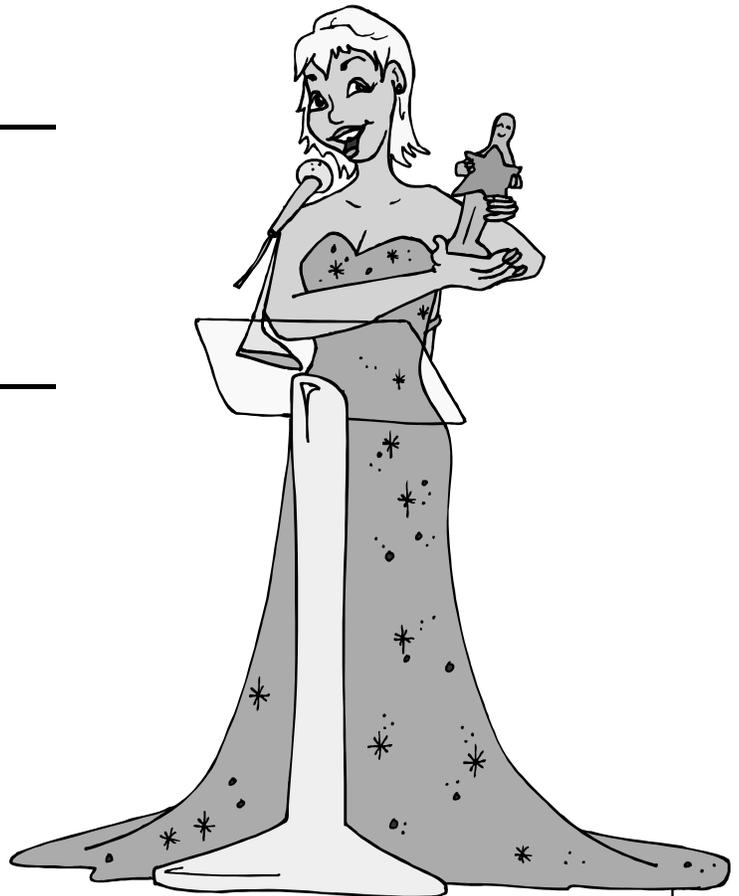
1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 21, ?

8, 5, 4, 9, ?

240, 240, 120, 40, 10, 2, ?



I would like to thank...



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