

DEBORAH/BARAK

Scripture:
Judges 4-5

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 1:27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.*

Materials Needed:
Picture
Map
Copies of worksheets

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know: that when Sisera oppressed Israel and they cried out to God, He enabled Deborah, a prophetess, Barak, a scared and ill-equipped commander, and Jael, a Kenite woman, to conquer 900 iron chariots plus foot soldiers.

To Realize: Although one may not seem to be the most qualified for doing God's work, and they may even be very fearful, she/he should still do God's will in spite of the fears, because God will enable them to do it.

To Respond: by relying on God's provision when they don't seem to be the most qualified person to do the job.

Setting Up the Story—

Have two envelopes: one with several professions and the other with the recipients. Example: Doctor/Patient, Teacher/Student, Police/Crook, etc. Each student picks from either one or the other envelope. When you give the signal, the students must **WITHOUT TALKING**, try to indicate what they are so that they make a 'match' between the profession and the recipient. There might be a mismatch if some professions were chosen without their recipient being taken—how would it feel for a teacher to try to put out a fire? Or a doctor to try to catch a crook? How does someone feel when they have to do something that they don't feel qualified to do? We're going to look at three people and their professions and their jobs.

Telling the Story—

Scripture:
Judges 4:1-3

- I. Background of Times
 - A. Israel does evil
 - B. Jabin in Hazor
 - 1. Sisera commander
 - 2. 900 iron chariots
 - C. Oppressed for 20 years
- II. Deborah Prophesies Victory

As you tell the story—

Student reads 4:1
Summarize background.

5:7,11 It's stated in just one sentence, but what is 20years of oppression like?

Scripture:
Judges 4:4-10

- A. Prophetess judging Israel
 - 1. Sits under a palm tree between Ramah and Bethel
 - 2. Summoned Barak
 - a. God commanded: Go to Mt. Tabor with 10,000 men
 - b. "I will give Sisera into your hand."
- B. Barak Afraid
 - 1. "I will go only if you go."
 - 2. 10,000 men volunteer
 - 3. no shield or spear
 - 4. Mt. Tabor

Judges 4:11-23

- III. God Gives the Victory
 - A. Defeat on the mountain
 - 1. Sisera comes with 900 iron chariots
 - 2. God routes them with a storm
 - B. Jael Kills Sisera
 - 1. Wife of Heber: Kenite
 - 2. kenites=friend of Jabin, dwell in tents, pro-Israel
 - 3. Invites Sisera into tent
 - 4. Drives tent peg through temple
 - 5. Hands him over to Barak
 - C. Israel Destroys Jabin

Read vs. 4

Do you notice anything unusual about this? Where was the tabernacle? Was it unusual for a woman to judge? Why? What do you think she was like?

What do her feelings seem to be?
(fill in chart)

Show on the map where Balak was from and where God was telling him to go.

Good news—they did have swords!

(fill in chart)

There were seasonal storms in this valley. In the dry season it was usable ground, but in the rainy season this area turned into swampy area. How would you feel if you were Barak, coming down from the mountain area to fight with chariots on a flat plain area?

Lived within a few miles of Barak's village

What type of woman would it take to do this?
(fill in chart)

Did God give them victory? What do each of the major players have in common?

*All lived in bad times

*All not the most likely person for the job

*Some were scared/others confident

*So why did they act?

Concluding the story:

Regardless of how they felt and whether or not they were qualified, they were doing what God wanted them to do. They were following Him. (fill in the “Us” column) Close in prayer.

Boardwork:

	Deborah	Barak	Jael	Us
Times:	Oppression from Jabin/ 900 iron chariots	Same as Deborah	At peace with Jabin	Moral and spiritual decline
Task:	Judge Israel— give direction	Free Israel from Canaanites	Opportunity to kill Sisera	Be faithful witness
Credentials:	She was a woman of God	None “volunteer”	None Kenite woman	??
Resources:	God	Deborah Volunteer army No shields No spears 10,000 men	Milk Blanket Tent peg Hammer	??
Feelings:	Seemed confident	fearful	Seemed confident	??
Outcome:	Rainstorm routes army	Kills enemy; destroys Jabin	Kills Sisera	People turn to Jesus

DEBORAH/BARAK HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Personal Application Questions:

1. Is there any job you are doing currently for which you feel unqualified?
2. Is there any opportunity you believe God has put in your path that you have been afraid to take because it seems too big for you?
3. What actions will you take in light of the truth of this lesson?

Application Questions to think through for your Students:

1. Write down things for which your students might feel unqualified. (Ex: Sharing a testimony at a youth group. Singing or playing an instrument in front of others.)
2. What actions can your students take in light of the truth of this lesson?

Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 1:27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

Write here which game you will use to teach this verse and any supplies you might need:

Post-Lesson Activity:

Copy either worksheet page 115 or 117 from *Bible Skills* to do an overview of the Books of the Bible.

Homework Ideas:

Have your students write down things this week that they encounter for which they feel unqualified. Have them tell what they did when faced with the situation.