

**HEROES**

**OF THE**

**FAITH**

Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power

**13**

**DEBORAH LEADS ISRAEL**

**HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012**

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# DEBORAH LEADS ISRAEL

## Memory Verse:

Sing to the Lord. He has done glorious things. Let it be known all over the world.  
Isaiah 12:5 (NirV)

## Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Deborah was

#2 - Discover what faith led Deborah to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

## Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

## Scripture to Study:

Judges 2:6-3:31 (as background)

Judges 4-5

Hebrews 11:32-34



# DEBORAH LEADS ISRAEL

Judges 4-5

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our heroine:** Deborah

**Her Heroic Feat:** Gives credit to God

Giving credit to God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Over the last couple of weeks, we've talked about how Joshua led the people of Israel into the promised land, the land that God promised Abraham so long ago. "The people served the Lord as long as Joshua lived. They also served Him as long as the elders lived. Those were the elders who lived longer than Joshua did. They had seen all of the great things the Lord had done for Israel." (Joshua 2:7 NIV) Then, an awful thing happened. Those who were born after these great men died, grew up and did not know the Lord! They did evil things and they served other gods. When they did this, it made God angry.

In God's anger because of the people's disobedience, God let their enemies win the battles. Their enemies didn't treat them well. They would cry out for help from God, then, God would give them leaders, or judges, who would care for them and teach them what was right. As long as that leader lived, the people were obedient, but when the leader died, they returned to their sin. This happened over and over again for years through the leaders Othniel, Ehud and others.

"After Ehud died, the people started doing evil things again. God let Jabin and the Canaanites have power over them. "Jabin's army had nine hundred iron chariots, and for twenty years he made life miserable for the Israelites, until finally they begged the LORD for help." (Judges 4:3 CEV)

God raised up a woman who was a leader in Israel at the time. Deborah was a judge. Because the people of Israel didn't have a government or a king then, the people went to judges to have their problems settled.\* Deborah worked out under a palm tree. That's where the people came when they had problems. She decided their cases for them and settled matters between them. (Judges 4:5 NIV)

During this time, God spoke to Deborah. Then Deborah sent for Barak. She told him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, is giving you a command. He says, 'Go! Take 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun with you. Then lead the way to Mt.

Tabor.'" (Judges 4:6 Nlrv) God also told Deborah to tell Barak exactly what would happen. If they would do exactly as God said, they would have the victory!

Barak didn't want to go to battle on his own, though. He would only go if Deborah agreed to go with him. "'All right,' Deborah said. 'I'll go with you. But because of the way you are doing this, you won't receive any honor. The Lord will hand Sisera over to a woman.'" (Judges 4:9 Nlrv) Sisera was the commander of Jabin's army.

So Deborah went to the battlefield with Barak and 10,000 men. They followed God's battle plan and met at Mount Tabor. The land around Mount Tabor isn't flat, it's very hilly. Even so, when Sisera, the Canaanite commander, heard that Barak was there, he gathered his 900 chariots and went after the people of Israel. "As Barak's men marched out, the Lord drove Sisera away from the field of battle. He scattered all of Sisera's chariots. Barak's men struck down Sisera's army with their swords. Sisera left his chariot behind. He ran away on foot." (Judges 4:15 Nlrv) Sisera hid in the tent of a woman named Jael. Her family had been friendly with the Canaanites, but Jael had no plans of being friendly this time. Sisera had run from the battle trying to save his life, but lost his life, instead, in the tent where he had looked for a hiding place.

Then, Deborah and Barak sang a song of praise, giving the credit to God for their victory over Sisera and the Canaanite army. And the land was at peace for forty years under the leadership of Deborah.

\* Wiersbe, Warren W. *Life Sentences*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, Michigan.. 2007. p 105.

### **YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!**

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Deborah gave God the credit for winning the battle against Jabin and the Canaanites.

Do you thank God for the things He has done in your life? Why don't you take a moment to do that right now?

Once you've done that, then you can follow our memory verse. It says, "Sing to the Lord He has done glorious things. Let it be known all over the world." (Isaiah 12:5 Nlrv) Are you telling others how wonderful God is? It's not too late to start right now!



**NEXT WEEK**  
Gideon Wins Battle With  
Only 300 Men

# PRE-SCHOOL!

## LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our heroine:** Deborah

**Her Heroic Feat:** Gives credit to God

Giving credit to God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Over the last couple of weeks, we've talked about how Joshua led the people of Israel into the promised land, the land that God promised Abraham so long ago. "The people served the Lord as long as Joshua lived." There is a problem, though. After Joshua died, the people did evil things and they served other gods. When they did this, it made God angry.

God let their enemies win the battles. Their enemies didn't treat them well. They would cry out for help from God. Then, God would give them leaders, or judges, who would care for them and teach them what was right. As long as that leader lived, the people were obedient, but when the leader died, they returned to their sin. This happened over and over again.

After the people of Israel had been disobedient for a while, God let Jabin and the Canaanites have power over them. "Jabin's army had nine hundred iron chariots, and for twenty years he made life miserable for the Israelites, until finally they begged the LORD for help." (Judges 4:3 CEV)

God helped them through a woman named Deborah. She was a judge. She decided their cases for them and settled matters between them. (Judges 4:5 NIV)

God spoke to Deborah. He had a message for a man named Barak. God said, 'Go! Take 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun with you. Then lead the way to Mt. Tabor.'" (Judges 4:6 NIV) Barak didn't want to go to battle on his own. He would only go if Deborah agreed to go with him. So Deborah went to the battlefield with Barak. They followed God's battle plan and met at Mount Tabor. God's battle plan worked! God scattered the other army and their commander ran away.

Then, Deborah and Barak sang a song of praise, giving the credit to God for their victory over Sisera and the Canaanite army. And the land was at peace for 40 years.

# ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Draw and decorate maps of the world. If you have access to older maps, use those. Write the memory verse over the map. Encourage your students to display their maps at home.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Awesome God," "Better is One Day," "He Reigns," "How Great is Our God," "How Great Thou Art," "Mighty to Save" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Re-enact the story. Make cardboard swords and newspaper (origami) helmets.
- Find Mount Tabor and the territory of the tribes of Zebulun, Issachar and Naphtali on a map of the Holy Land. Hint: They are all in the north.
- **For more training:** Deborah is not mentioned in Hebrews 11, but read and discuss verses 32-34 in light of the lesson.
- **For more training:** Discuss the cycle of disobedience, punishment and rescue in the book of judges. Read and discuss Romans 6:1-14.

Sing to the Lord.  
He has done  
glorious things.  
Let it be known  
all over the world.  
Isaiah 12:5

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# ***HERO IN TRAINING***

Deborah Leads Israel

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# HERO TRAINING!

**Scripture:** Judges 4, 5

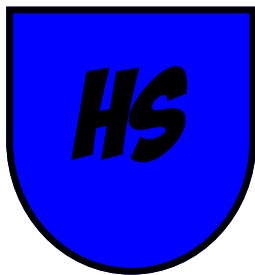
**Memory verse:**

Sing to the Lord. He has done glorious things. Let it be known all over the world. Isaiah 12:5 (NIV)

**Our Heroine:** \_\_\_\_\_

What did our heroine do that was so heroic? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have the power?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read Romans 6:1-14. What should you be doing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Begin with the first letter at the arrow and write every other letter on  
the spaces below to read the verse.



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Isaiah 12:5

WORD

SEARCH!

B D C N F F E S M N G H O  
S D J O S H U E L E A D S  
D E N R A D A G V J E S V  
N B W A L I S D A O L J O  
G O D R E S C U E S S O M  
O R P A C O E J O H N I W  
R A I B W B R S T U E H E  
A H T H L E K A R A B U D  
H D R I O D C H S D D A J  
C S O D S I H S I I N C E  
R X P E O E O T M E A H C  
A R E S P N E P O S D E A  
M T R D H C O G R R C S E  
F N O T N E M H S I N U P  
W C A N A A N I T E S N D

- Joshua dies
- disobedience
- punishment
- God rescues
- judges
- Deborah
- Barak
- Canaanites
- peace

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Begin with the first letter at the arrow and write every other letter on  
the spaces below to read the verse.



Sing to the Lord.

He has done glorious things.

Let it be known all over the world.

Isaiah 12:5

