

The Story of Deborah

"Serving Others Through Our Gifts"

"So be good servants and use your gifts to serve each other". 1 Peter 4:10

Today we are going to hear a story from the bible about a woman named Deborah who trusted God and used the gifts He blessed her with to help others.

It's been a while since we read out of our Action Bible. Last time we read about Joshua and how he led the Israelites to the Promised Land. – remember?

Well, no it is many years later. Joshua has passed away. Now God has put several people in charge of helping and advising the Israelites. They are called Judges.

Do you all know what a judge is? **Judges are people who enforce the laws. See if the kids can come up with some ideas of when it is good to have a judge around.**

Deborah was a prophetess, a judge, and a military leader who led Israel to victory over their oppressors. She held court under a palm tree, where the Israelites came to her for judgment. (Judges 4:4-5)

Let's read the story of Deborah and her role as a judge.

Read: "The Song of Deborah" out of the Action Bible. (Judges 4-5)

Discussion:

Deborah served Israel as a prophetess and a judge; two roles seldom held by women during her time. Under a palm tree, she would offer guidance, wisdom, and justice to her people.

Deborah didn't keep the gifts God had given her to herself; she shared them with her community. As a prophetess, she was a mouthpiece for God, delivering His messages to His people. As a judge, she used her wisdom to administer justice, resolve disputes, and guide the Israelites. Her courage and leadership were not born out of her ambition but from her relationship with God and her commitment to serving others.

Like Deborah, we should use whatever gifts we have been given for the benefit of others and the glory of God.

- As Peter encourages us in 1 Peter 4:10: *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

The call to use our gifts is not to draw attention to ourselves but to point others to God, just as Deborah did.

Barak: He was scared, wasn't he? Scared to do what God told him to do. He did not believe God would be with him, unless Deborah was there.

- His fear and uncertainty are familiar to many of us when faced with a challenging situation or a command from God that seems impossible. We often find ourselves saying, "Lord, I can't do this," or "I will do this if only..."? It's easy to let fear cloud our judgment and cause us to shrink back when God calls us to step out in faith.

So, Deborah agreed to help him, right? It was her faith in God that eventually helped Barak trust God too.

- Deborah's faith was not based on her confidence in Barak's abilities or even in her own. It was anchored in her **trust in God's plan and His promise of victory. She didn't allow the fear of the situation cloud her confidence in God's faithfulness.**

A verse I lean on sometimes when I am afraid is:

2 Corinthians 12:9-10, *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**"*

We can always trust in God's promises and faithfulness, knowing that He is bigger than our weakness.

Jael: Jael, a Kenite woman, was an unexpected hero. She was not an Israelite, not a soldier, and yet, she was instrumental in the victory, fulfilling Deborah's prophecy that a woman would receive the honor of victory.

Many of us may feel unqualified or ill-equipped to be used by God. We might think that we lack the knowledge, experience, or ability. But as we see in Jael's story, God often chooses the unlikely to fulfil His purpose.

Remember the shepherd boy David, who God chose to become a king. Or Moses, a man with a speech impediment, was chosen to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

The Bible is filled with stories of ordinary people who God used in extraordinary ways.

The truth is that our abilities, strength, or wisdom do not limit God's ability to use us. It is not about who we are or what we can do, but who God is and what He can do through us.

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

After the great victory, Deborah and Barak burst into song, praising God for His faithfulness and deliverance. This praise-filled song teaches us to recognize God's hand in our lives, to remember the blessings He has poured out on us, and to give Him all the glory.

- Like Deborah and Barak, we too should have a heart of gratitude, acknowledging God's actions in our lives. Giving God praise helps us remember His goodness, grace, and mercy. It reminds us of His mighty power that brought us through past trials and His faithfulness that will bring us through future ones.
- The act of praising God also keeps our hearts humble, as it recognizes that the victory is not ours, but the Lord's.

Deborah's story is a powerful testimony to courageous leadership, faith in God's plan, and the ability of God to use the most unlikely individuals for His purposes.

It also reminds us of the importance of praise and thanksgiving. As we apply these lessons to our lives, may we grow in our faith, demonstrate courage in the face of challenges, and always remember to give thanks and praise to God.

Remember – Barak had to ask Deborah for help. It's ok to ask for help when you are unsure of something.

Also, once again..... the story of the Israelites is how they forget to trust God and do things on their own. They then get into more trouble and need to ask for more help from God.

God forgave them for disobeying Him and he helped them once again when they repented for doing wrong.

God will always forgive us too and He will always be there to help us when we need it.

Memory Verse: *"Each of you received a spiritual gift. God has shown you his grace in giving you different gifts. And you are like servants who are responsible for using God's gifts. So be good servants and use your gifts to serve each other."*

1 Peter 4:10

Close in Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for the gifts you have given each of us to use to help others know more about you. Help us to trust and ask for help when we need it and to help others so that they may know your Love too. In Jesus' name – Amen.

Videos:

God's Story – Deborah

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GakKDNn2_YE&list=PLjuRHkK1UDY2Py8x37jjL_4sd-f2x_V77&index=1

Veggie Tales – Don't Give Up on Doing Good

<https://app.pureflix.com/videos/497078822554/veggietales-don-t-give-up-on-doing-good>

coloring pages

- Deborah_a Judge
- Barak

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://truewaykids.com> for their resources and helping share the gospel with all children.

And to <https://daniellesplace.com> for great craft ideas.



DEBORAH WORD SEARCH

BARAK

BATTLE

CHARIOTS

DEBORAH

ISRAELITES

Jael

JUDGE

PALM

PRAISE

PROPHETESS

SISERA

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VICTORY

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