

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **August 8, 2021** Family Theme | **God Chooses Unusual Leaders** Study Text | **Judges 4:1-24**

Objective: Children understand that God uses all kinds of people and strategies to accomplish His purposes. We obey Him, trusting His plan.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set around 1200 BC in the time between the death of Joshua and the rise of the monarchy. The Israelites began a cycle of apostasy in which they repeatedly turned away from God, only to be delivered by a series of judges. Deborah was the fourth such judge.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer each day this week and work with family members to do so as well. What does the Seventh Commandment mean? Answer: The Seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) means the marriage covenant is to be guarded from any sexual impurities. Husbands and wives are to be faithful to one another.

Read the Word: Judges 4:1-24

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children or grandchildren about how God can use any person who gives his or her life to Him. He uses all kinds of people and strategies to accomplish His will.



Key Truth: Confession and Repentance Are the First Steps Toward Restoration With God (Judges 4:1-3)

As chapter 4 opens, we see Israel drift from God into spiritual apathy. Peace and prosperity bring with them the danger of drifting. Spiritual apathy was a weakness of Israel and is a challenge for us today. Israel took the first step toward restoration and cried out to the Lord. Many Christians relate to the pattern Israel repeated. When the pain of sin became severe, they would return and seek God's mercy. God would forgive and restore them to a right relationship with Him. The Lord does not refuse a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17).



Key Truth: God Uses Many Different People and Strategies to Accomplish His Purposes (Judges 4:4-10)

Israel's deliverer at this time was a woman named Deborah. Raising up Deborah was an act of grace on God's part, but also an act of humiliation for the Israelites. After all, this was a male-dominant culture in which leadership was typically filled by men. Deborah understood she was not a military leader, nor would she ever be respected as such. She summoned Barak to lead the charge for Israel. The Lord promised Barak that He would deliver Sisera, the Canaanite commander, into Barak's hands. Deborah informed Barak that even though he would be leading Israel to victory, he would not receive the credit or the glory. Like Barak, we sometimes wonder what God is up to. In those times, however, we must trust the heart and wisdom of God and accept that He knows what He is doing.



Key Truth: Victory Is Found in God's Power and Ways, Not Our Own (Judges 4:11-24)

As Deborah and Barak followed God's leading and trusted in His power, they experienced an amazing victory, although the odds were against them. Sisera's army seemed to be an invincible opponent. Yet we see there are no invincible enemies when we obey God's leadership. Barak took his 10,000 troops as directed by the Lord and went down from Mount Tabor to engage in the battle. The Lord delivered the victory to Barak in such a decisive way that not a Canaanite man, besides Sisera, was left standing. Sisera fled on foot and was eventually killed by Heber's wife Jael as she took a tent peg and drove it through his temple as he lay fast asleep.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- Why is spiritual apathy a danger in times of peace and prosperity?
- How should we respond when we realize we have become spiritually apathetic?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to trust God's plan?
- Why should we trust and obey God's plan, even when it does not make sense to us?
- In what way do you need to trust God's plan this week?
- **For Elementary:** Why was Deborah an unlikely leader?
- **For Elementary:** Does Deborah's example change your thoughts about who can be a leader for God? Does it change your thoughts about how God can use you as a leader?

Everyday Extras

Let your grandmother be the judge! Are the children arguing about something? Is there a difference of opinion about which television show to watch or which game to play or whose turn it is? Deborah settled the arguments in Israel as their judge; your grandmother can be the judge in your dispute today! Visit, phone, or video chat with her and allow each person to present the case. Then everyone will accept Grandmother's ruling and instructions. What would be different in your town if your grandmother was the mayor?

Deborah went to battle along with God's people, and grandmothers like her are still doing battle by praying for their families every day. Thank God for your grandmother!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned God sent Gideon to save the Israelites. Gideon asked God for a sign to show He was with him, and God gave him one. Gideon asked God for another sign, and God gave it again. Gideon knew God was with him, and Gideon trusted God's plan.
I Can Trust God.