

GRADES  
K-6

# DEBORAH LEADS AN ARMY

Printable Lesson Kit



**M** **GHTY MESSAGES**

# THANK YOU

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# DEBORAH LEADS AN ARMY

## LESSON OVERVIEW

### DEBORAH MIGHTY MESSAGE

The story of Deborah, the judge and prophet of Israel, will teach that women can be very strong, spiritual, and insightful. Deborah listened to God and told her military leader, Barak, that God had a battle for him. She gave clear instructions. When Barak refused to go without her, she demonstrated great strength and leadership by leading the army into battle.

### How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Craft
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



#### MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Blindfold (game)
- Pencils or pens
- Candy (optional)
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

# DEBORAH LEADS AN ARMY

## SCRIPTURE & LESSON

### EXCERPTS OF JUDGES 4 (NIV)

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:

#### JUDGES 4:



<sup>4</sup> Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.

<sup>5</sup> She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. <sup>6</sup> She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor.

<sup>7</sup> I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.”

<sup>8</sup> Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.”

<sup>9</sup> “Certainly I will go with you,” said Deborah. “But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.” So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.

<sup>10</sup> There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his command. Deborah also went up with him.

<sup>11</sup> Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses’ brother-in-law, and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaananim near Kedesh.

<sup>12</sup> When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor,

<sup>13</sup> Sisera summoned from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River all his men and his nine hundred chariots fitted with iron.

<sup>14</sup> Then Deborah said to Barak, “Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the Lord gone ahead of you?” So Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him.

<sup>15</sup> At Barak’s advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot.

<sup>16</sup> Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera’s troops fell by the sword; not a man was left.

<sup>17</sup> Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite.

<sup>18</sup> Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, “Come, my lord, come right in. Don’t be afraid.” So he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

<sup>19</sup> “I’m thirsty,” he said. “Please give me some water.” She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up.

<sup>20</sup> “Stand in the doorway of the tent,” he told her. “If someone comes by and asks you, ‘Is anyone in there?’ say ‘No.’”

<sup>21</sup> But Jael, Heber’s wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

<sup>22</sup> Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. “Come,” she said, “I will show you the man you’re looking for.” So he went in with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent peg through his temple—dead.

## Questions for Children about Deborah the Judge and Prophet:

1. See verses 4-9. What did Barak ask Judge Deborah to do? A: Go with him into battle. Why might he have done that?

**A: The army they were fighting might have been scary; he was afraid and wanted her supernatural-prophetic powers with him. How did Deborah answer him? And did she sound afraid? A: No, she sounded surprisingly willing but she was not happy with his lack of faith in what God had said to do.**

2. The church has long been run largely by men. What does Deborah show us about how God feels about women?

**A: They are very capable; they should also be prepared to hear God's voice and follow it and perhaps lead others. If God gave you a calling, what would you like for it to be? How might he tell you?**

3. The evil commander Sisera was also killed by a woman. See the end of the reading. What was her name?

**A: Jael. How did she trick him, and how did she kill him? She made him feel safe; she provided hospitality; she drove a stake through his head while he slept. Jael is sometimes called "the female assassin in the Bible." Deborah is known as the only female judge among Israel's 15 judges. What do these two tell us about traditional roles in the church of strong male leaders/more submissive females? A: They may apply to many people but they don't apply to all. All churches should be on the lookout for strong female leaders, or they could miss a great opportunity.**



## TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

Deborah was a judge and prophet of Israel. God told her that her military was to fight the army of Sisera, the evil captain, and that they would win. Her own captain, Barak, was afraid and said he wouldn't go without her.

Deborah agreed to go. But she told Barak that because he didn't show courage, he would not receive credit for the victory.

Deborah then led the army to a great victory. Then a woman, Jael, killed Sisera with a hammer and spike and got the credit.

Great leaders do not always look like great leaders from the outside. Deborah and Jael lived in a time when men were strong and burly, and women were considered weaker and quiet. We should be careful when judging people from the outside without giving them a chance. We could overlook a great friend, or worse, become friends with the wrong person instead of them!



# DEBORAH LEADS AN ARMY

## PRINTABLE CRAFT



### MATERIALS:

- White paper
- Coloring utensils
- Scissors
- Glue stick

### PRINT PHASE:

On white paper, print the following files for the Deborah Craft that you will be assembling (all pages follow these instructions):

- Background Page
- Bible Hero Character (color or black and white)
- Mock-Up Page

### COLOR PHASE:

Color the Background Page with the coloring utensils of your choice.

### CUT PHASE:

Cut out the various components of Bible Hero Character.

### PASTE PHASE:

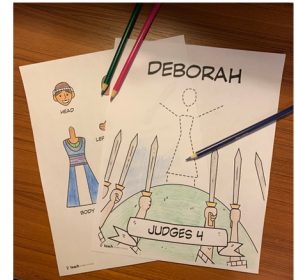
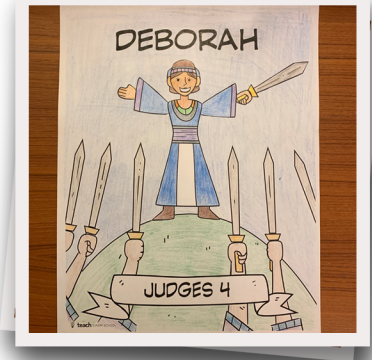
Paste the components onto the colored Background Page over the dotted character outline, using the Mock-Up Page for guidance.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING THIS CRAFT A SUCCESS WITH YOUNGER KIDS

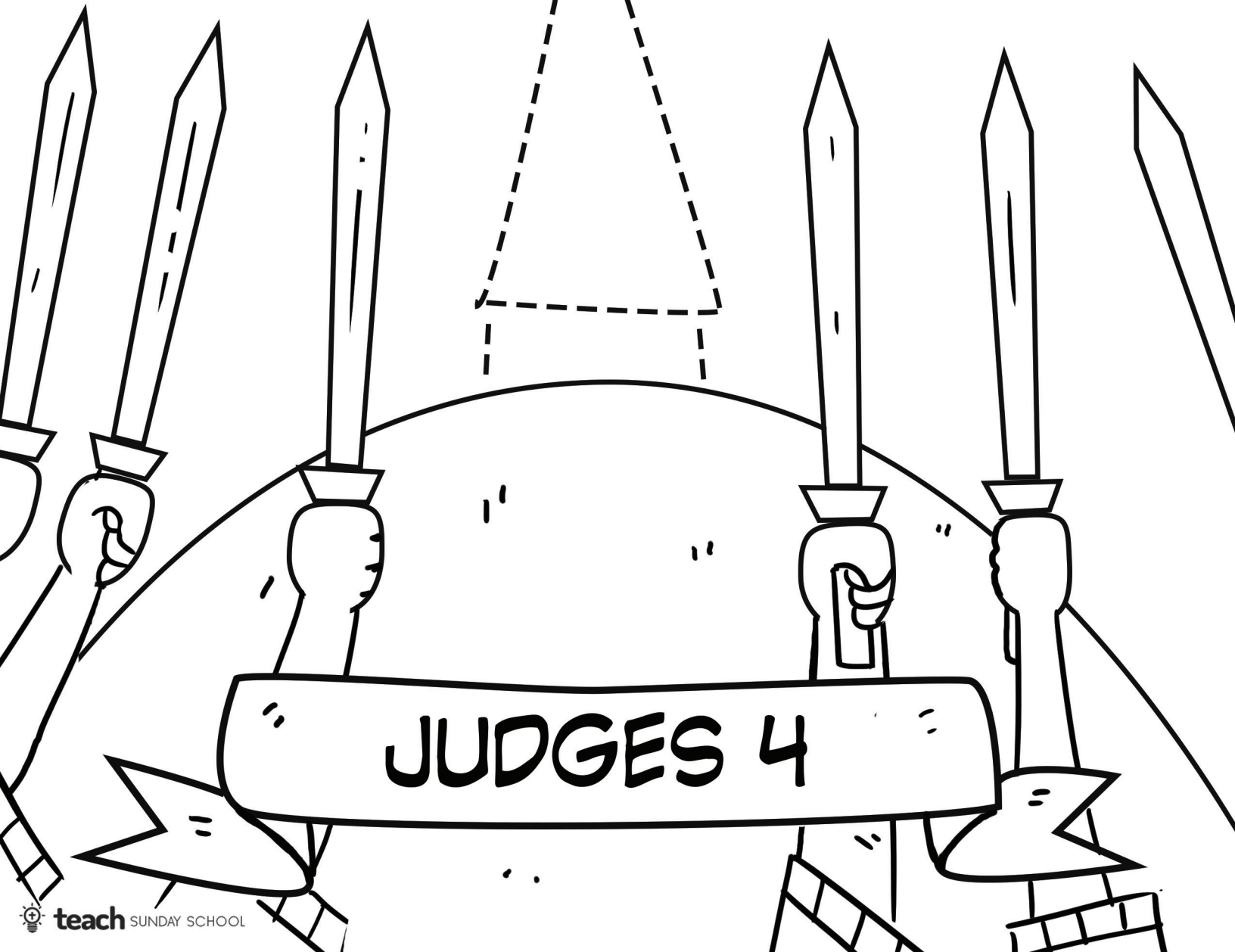
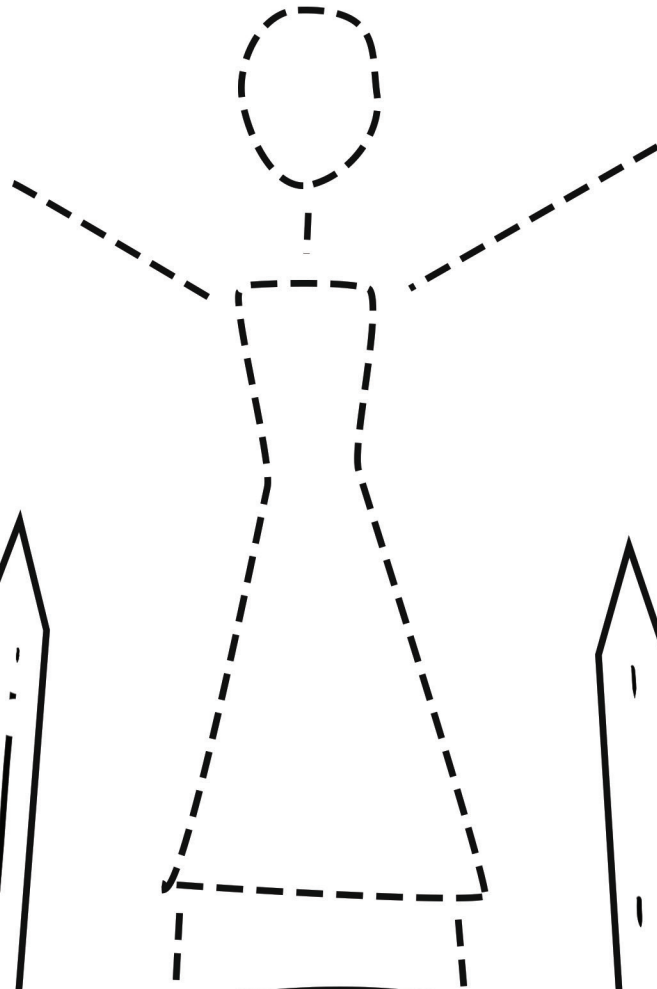
Younger children might need a little extra help to make their crafts look great, especially when it comes to using scissors!

You can make craft time more enjoyable for the younger children (and less stressful for yourself) by spending a little more time by preparing the components. Some suggestions include:

- Cut out the character components beforehand and put them in plastic sandwich bags. Not only does it keep things organized, but you avoid having pieces go missing.
- Rather than cutting out the Character components beforehand, or having the younger kids struggle through it, print out the Complete Mock-Up Page as a coloring page.
- For kids who are cutting, place a few small trash cans or buckets around the room, and have the children sit in groups around them. That way, they can easily throw away their paper scraps as they go, leaving less cleanup for you after class!



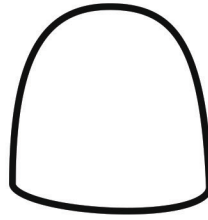
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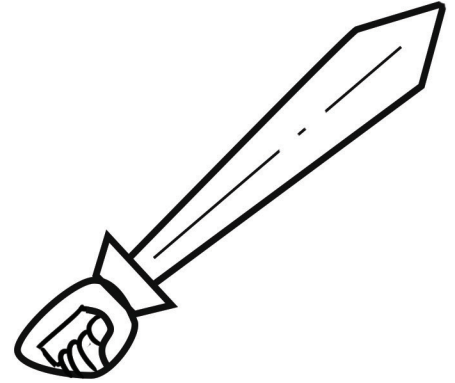




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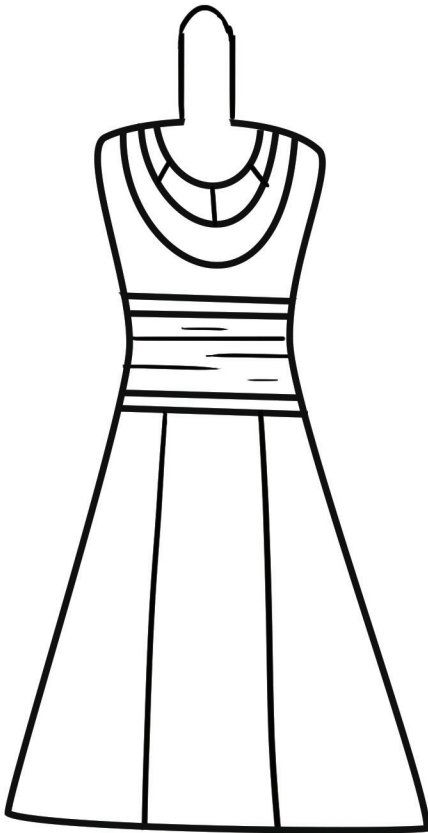
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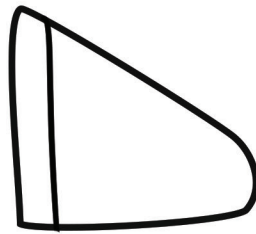
RIGHT HAND



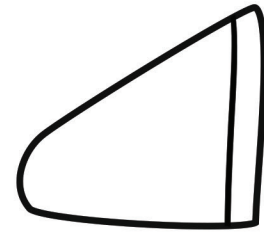
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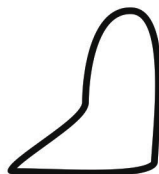
BODY



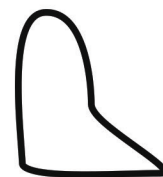
LEFT SLEEVE



RIGHT SLEEVE



LEFT BOOT



RIGHT BOOT

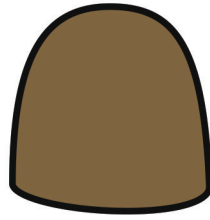
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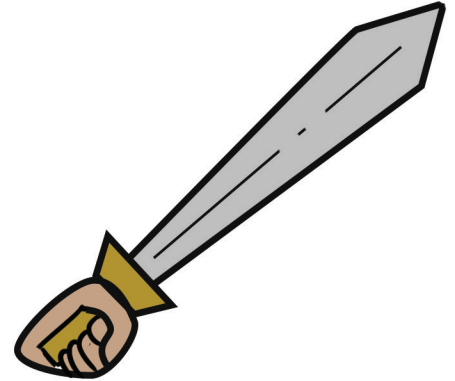
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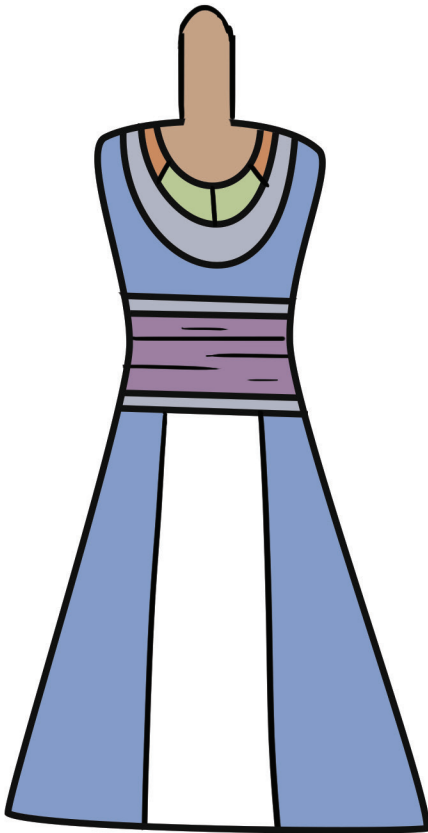
HAIR



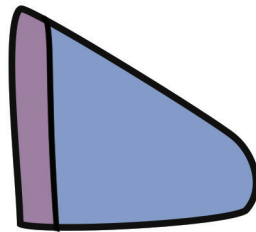
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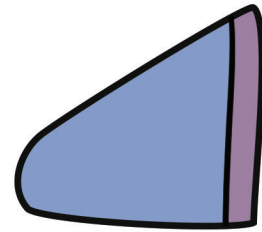
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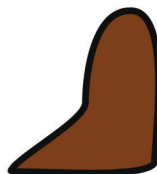
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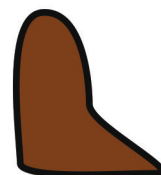
LEFT SLEEVE



RIGHT SLEEVE



LEFT BOOT



RIGHT BOOT

### FUSSY FREDDIE FREAKOUT

It's easy for kids to “judge a book by its cover,” as people judged Deborah and Jael wrongly. This game in voice identification will help children understand why we need to go deeper.



#### MATERIALS:

- Blindfold
- Candy (optional)



#### INTRODUCTION:

Are we pretty good and identifying people? Let's blindfold some students and see:



#### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have one child come to the front of the class. Blindfold him. Have other children come up and say the following from behind: ***Hello there. My name is Fussy Freddy. I can freak you out.***
2. The blindfolded child has to guess which student is speaking. The speaking children may disguise their voices with groveling, whispers, high-pitched soprano, etc. They can speak into their hands or into a tube (no screaming in ears!). They can surround their voice with extraneous noises like tongue clicking or barking. They can speak on the inhale.
3. Ask the blindfolded child to guess who is speaking. If they guess, ask them how they knew. If they can't guess, the child who disguised his voice well enough wins a piece of candy (if you chose to bring it). At the end, give out the candy to everyone as you explain:

**Often in real life, we don't see all of a person, and we can't hear them clearly. It's a little like this game. We couldn't see the person; we had to guess. In real life we can't “see” what a person is like on the inside—especially if they are nervous or shy. We want to make friends by looking at people on the inside. That means we have to give them a chance.**

**If Barak had known Deborah from the inside, he would have guessed she would go easily into battle with him, and he wouldn't have embarrassed himself in front of troops and lots of people. If Sisera had any idea Jael was so nervy, he never would have fallen asleep within a mile of her! We don't want to judge by outward appearances while making friends. We want to know our friends well!**

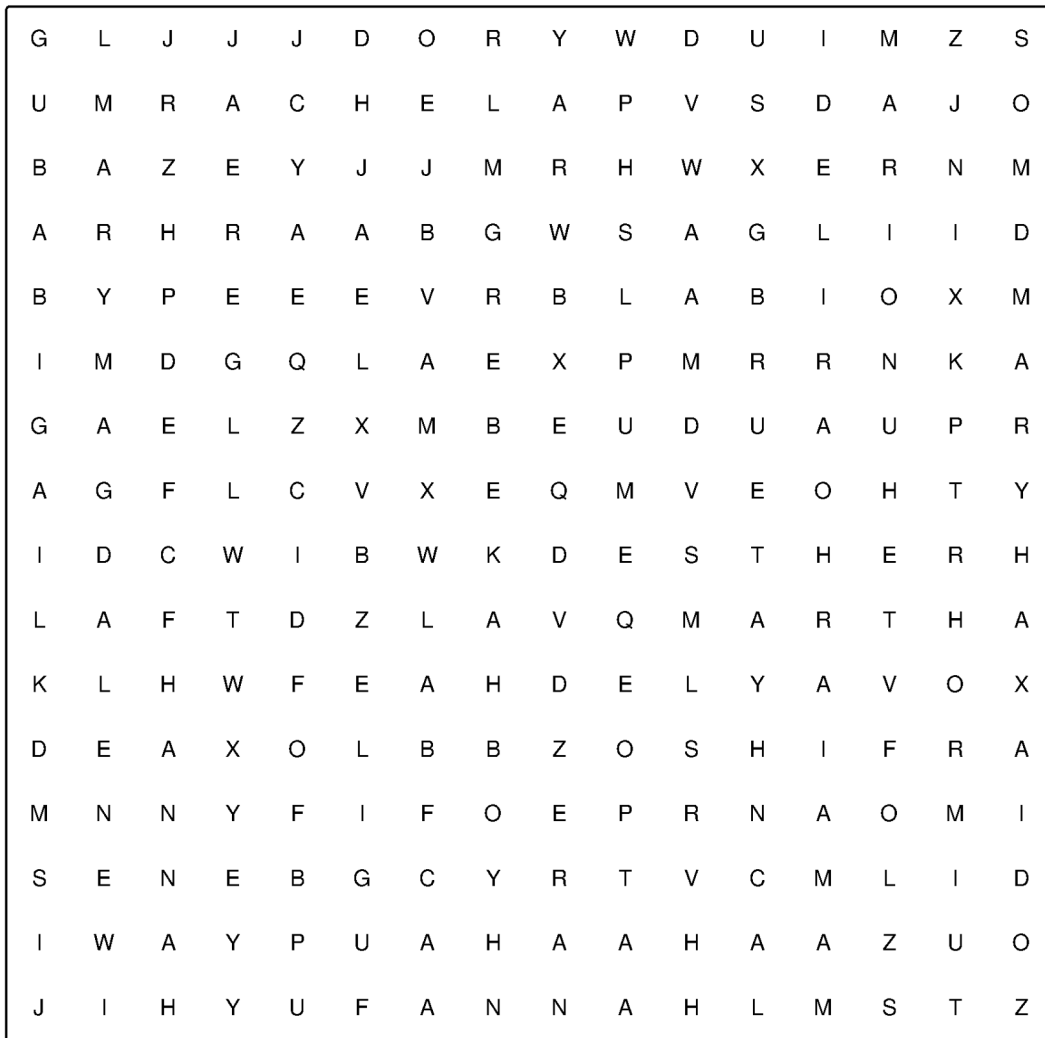


DEBORAH - Judges 4  
A warrior.

# DEBORAH LEADS AN ARMY

## WORD SEARCH

Deborah was a judge and prophet. Along with Deborah, there were many female heroes in God's word. Below is a list of many famous women of the Bible. Find them in the puzzle above, and then put stars next to the three you think were personal friends of Jesus! (Your teacher has the answers.)



### Words to Find:

ABIGAIL  
ANNA  
DEBORAH  
DORCAS  
ELIZABETH

ESTHER  
HANNAH  
Jael  
MARION  
MARTHA

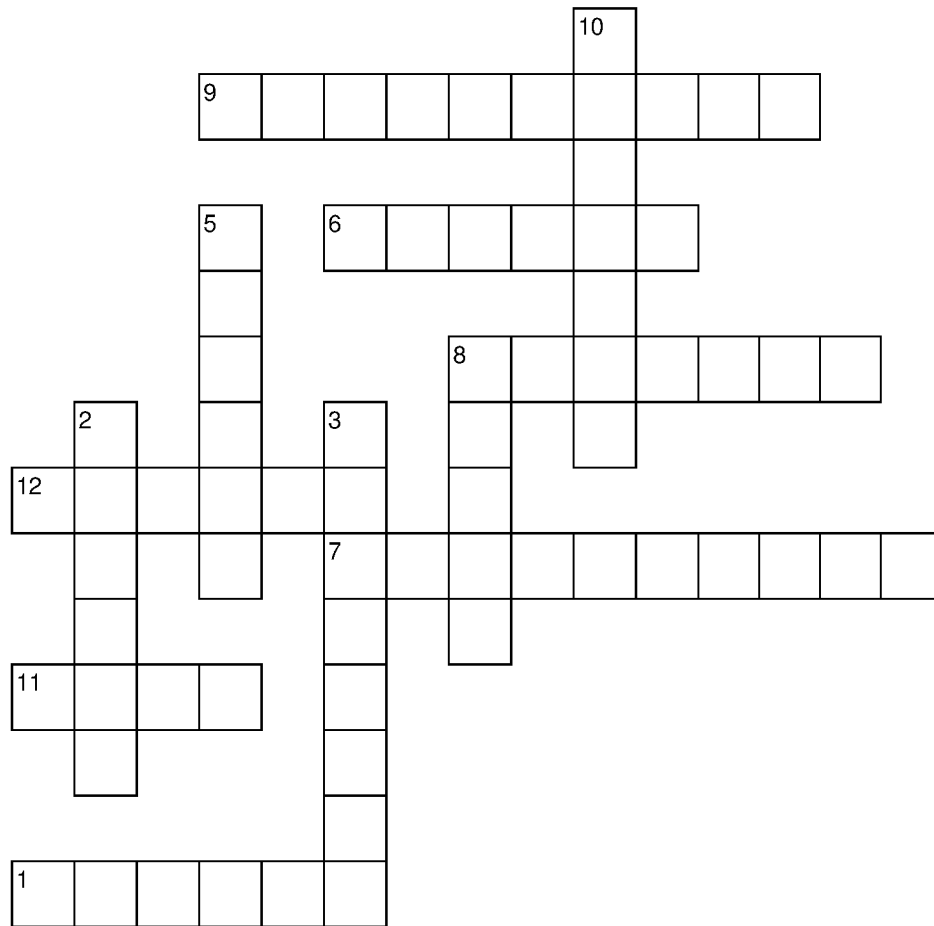
MARY  
MARYMAGDALENE  
NAOMI  
PUAH  
RACHEL

RAHAB  
REBEKAH  
RUTH  
SARAH  
SHIFRA

# DEBORAH LEADS AN ARMY

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use the Deborah At-a-Glance Sheet to help you fill in the answers:



### Across

1. Israel's military commander
6. Deborah's number among Judges
7. Deborah was this as well as a Judge
8. Century of Deborah's reign
9. Name of people Israel was fighting
11. This person will deliver you...
12. Israel's brutal enemy

### Down

2. River where the battle would be won
3. Name of Deborah's husband
5. Bible book where Deborah's story is found
8. Mount where the fighting would take place
10. There were this many Judges total

# DEBORAH LEADS AN ARMY

## PARENT HANDOUT



**Scriptures to Read:** Judges 4:4-9 (NIV)

### This Week We Learned About ...

Deborah was the only female Judge of Israel during the Era of the Judges. She was also a prophet. When she told her commander Barach about God wanting him to lead a battle that looked like it would require a lot of faith, Barach was coy. He said, "I'll do it if you go."

Deborah not only went to the battle but she prophesied that Barach would not get the credit; it would go to a woman. A woman named Jael killed the enemy's fierce military commander, Sisera, by driving a stake through his head while he slept.

Great leaders do not always look like great leaders from the outside. Deborah and Jael lived in a time when men were strong and burly, and women were considered weaker and quiet. We should be careful when judging people from the outside without giving them a chance. We could overlook a great friend, or worse, become friends with the wrong person instead of them!

### ✓ Questions for Kids:

1. What did Deborah tell Barach that God had ordered him to do? **Take with you ten thousand men; he would deliver Jabin's army into their hands.**
2. What did Barach say to her upon this order? **"If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."**
3. What did Deborah tell him in response? **Certainly I will go with you," said Deborah. "But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman."**

### ✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

Think of a time you thought someone was weak and they showed great strength. Describe what happened.

Think of a time you saw someone come under persecution because of something they couldn't help, like their gender, race, ethnicity or even a physical challenge. Describe what happened.

### Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



*The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*  
**1 Samuel 16:7**



*For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*  
**Matthew 7:2**



*You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.*  
**Romans 2:1**



# DEBORAH

## AT-A-GLANCE



**JUDGE OF ISRAEL:**  
Approx. 1235 BC



**MARRIED: LAPIDOTH**

## CLAIM TO FAME:

- 1 Deborah prophesied that her military commander, Barach, would win an unprecedented battle, yet would not get credit. In fact, his brutal enemy Sisera was killed by a woman as Deborah predicted.

## FAMOUS QUOTES:

“The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’” *Judges 4:6-7*

“Certainly I will go with you,” said Deborah. “But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.” *Judges 4:9*

## IMPORTANT FACTS:

- Deborah was a prophetess as well as a Judge of Israel.
- Deborah was the fourth of 15 judges who all ruled between 1350 and 1050 BC.
- Deborah is from the Tribe of Ephraim.
- Deborah inspired the Israelites to a victory over the Canaanites.



**LEARNING  
LOOKUPS**

**DEBORAH  
LEADS AN ARMY**

**Lookup:** Judges 4:9 and write it down:

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**Lookup:** Judges 4:21 and write it down:

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Here are two incredibly courageous women. Which one do you relate to more and why?

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Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Ask God what you would have to do to be called his friend (which is superior to being his child).

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# DEBORAH LEADS AN ARMY

## QUIZ

Deborah's story contains two great parts. In one, you get to know her, and in the other, you get to know her female compatriot, Jael. Finish the Bible lookups and quiz to know important facts about both of them.

### CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER

**1. According to Judges 4:4 Deborah was not only a judge but was also a**

- a. Prophet
- b. Wife
- c. Both A & B
- d. Neither A nor B

**2. The Israelites came to Deborah so she could do this (Judges 4:5)**

- a. Arm wrestle
- b. Punish liars
- c. Settle arguments
- d. Punish traitors

**3. Deborah's enemy was this army commander named in Judges 4:7:**

- a. Sisera
- b. Naphtali
- c. Zeus
- d. Aristotle

**4. Barach told Deborah he would go into battle only if (Judges 4:8)**

- a. Deborah paid him
- b. Deborah blessed him
- c. Deborah went herself

**5. Deborah's prophecy before going into battle was that Sisera would be (Judges 4:9)**

- a. burned alive
- b. buried alive
- c. killed by a woman

**6. How did Sisera get away from Barach and Deborah (Judges 4:17)**

- a. Climbed a tree
- b. Fled on foot
- c. Hid in caves
- d. Helicopter

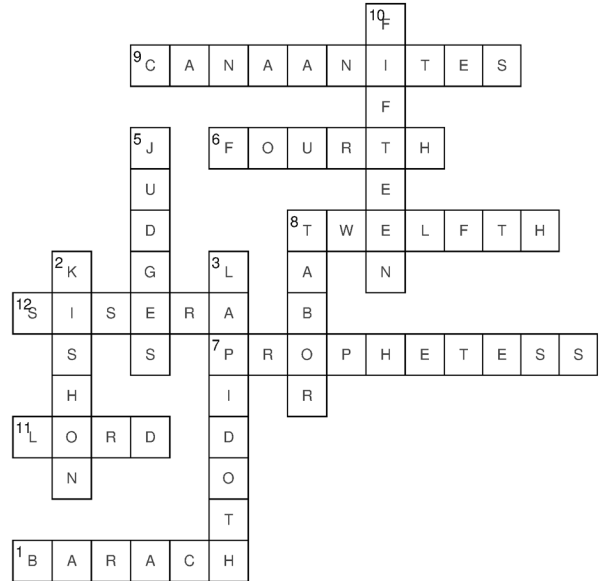
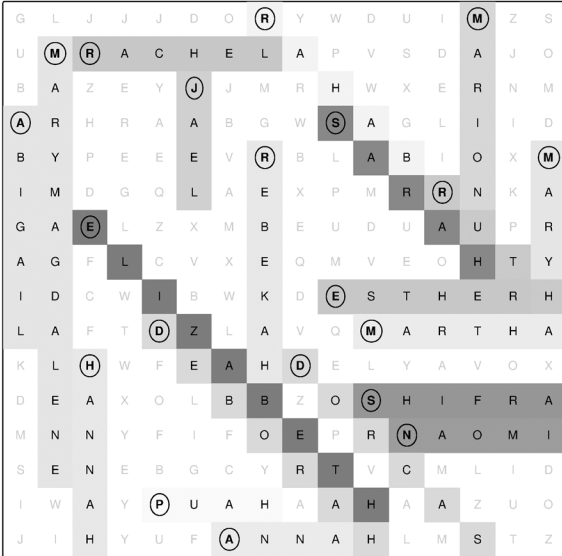
**7. When Sisera entered Jael's tent, he asked her for this (Judges 4:19)**

- a. Milk
- b. Water
- c. Prayer
- d. A getaway horse

**8. Jael killed Sisera with this sharp instrument in Judges 4:21**

- a. Poison darts
- b. Sword
- c. Bee hive
- d. Tent peg & hammer

Personal Friends of Jesus: Martha, Mary, Mary Magdalene



1. According to Judges 4:4 Deborah was not only a judge but was also a

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# DEBORAH LEADS AN ARMY

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

NAME:

DATE:

