

## Story Time - Read the story to the children

### Lesson 61: DEBORAH

#### JUDGES 4:1-23

Ehud was a good man that the LORD chose to rescue Israel at one time. After Ehud died, the Israelites once again started disobeying the LORD. So the LORD let the Canaanite King Jabin of Hazor attack and conquer Israel. Sisera, the commander of King Jabin's army, lived in a place called Harosheth-Ha-Goiim (Hair-oh-sheth hah-goyeem). King Jabin's army had nine hundred heavy iron chariots, and for twenty years he made life miserable for the Israelites, until finally they begged the LORD for help. Deborah, the wife of a man named Lappidoth, was a prophetess and a leader of Israel during those days. She would sit under a tree called Deborah's Palm Tree between the towns of Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, where Israelites would come and ask her to settle their legal cases. One day, Barak the son of Abinoam was in Kedesh in Naphtali, and Deborah sent a message for him to come and talk with her. When he arrived, she said: I have a message for you from the LORD God of Israel! You are to get together an army of ten thousand men from the Naphtali and Zebulun tribes and lead them to Mount Tabor. The LORD will trick Sisera into coming out to fight you at the Kishon River. Sisera will be leading King Jabin's army as usual, and they will have their iron chariots, but the LORD has promised to help you defeat them. "I'm not going unless you go!" Barak told her. "All right, I'll go!" she replied. "But I'm warning you that the LORD is going to let a woman defeat Sisera, and no one will honor you for winning the battle." Deborah and Barak left for Kedesh, where Barak called together the troops from Zebulun and Naphtali. Ten thousand soldiers gathered there, and Barak led them out from Kedesh. Deborah went too. At this time, Heber of the Kenite clan was living near the village of Oak in Zaanannim, not far from Kedesh. The Kenites were descendants of Hobab, the father-in-law of Moses, but Heber had moved and had set up his tents away from the rest of the clan. When Sisera learned that Barak had led an army to Mount Tabor, he called his troops together and got all nine hundred iron chariots ready. Then he led his army away from Harosheth-Ha-Goiim to the Kishon River. Deborah shouted, "Barak, it's time to attack Sisera! Because today the LORD is going to help you defeat him. In fact, the LORD has already gone on ahead to fight for you." Barak led his ten thousand troops down from Mount Tabor. And during the battle, the LORD confused Sisera, his chariot drivers, and his whole army.

Everyone was so afraid of Barak and his army, that even Sisera jumped down from his chariot and tried to escape. Barak's forces went after Sisera's chariots and army as far as Harosheth-Ha-Goiim. Sisera's entire army was wiped out. Only Sisera escaped. He ran to Heber's camp, because Heber and his family had a peace treaty with the king of Hazor. Sisera went to the tent that belonged to Jael, Heber's wife. She came out to greet him and said, "Come in, sir! Please come on in. Don't be afraid." After they had gone inside, Sisera lay down, and Jael covered him with a blanket. "Could I have a little water?" he asked. "I'm thirsty." Jael opened a leather bottle and poured him some milk, then she covered him back up. "Stand at the entrance to the tent," Sisera told her. "If someone comes by and asks if anyone is inside, tell them 'No.' " Sisera was exhausted and soon fell fast asleep. Jael took a hammer and drove a tent-peg through his head into the ground, and he died. Meanwhile, Barak had been following Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. "The man you're looking for is inside," she said. "Come in and I'll show him to you." They went inside, and there was Sisera--dead and stretched out with a tent-peg through his skull. That same day the Israelites defeated the Canaanite King Jabin, and his army was no longer powerful enough to attack the Israelites any more.

**61. DEBORAH  
(JUDGES 4:1-23)**



“And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.”

**JUDGES 4:4**

# 61. DEBORAH

## (JUDGES 4:1-23)

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

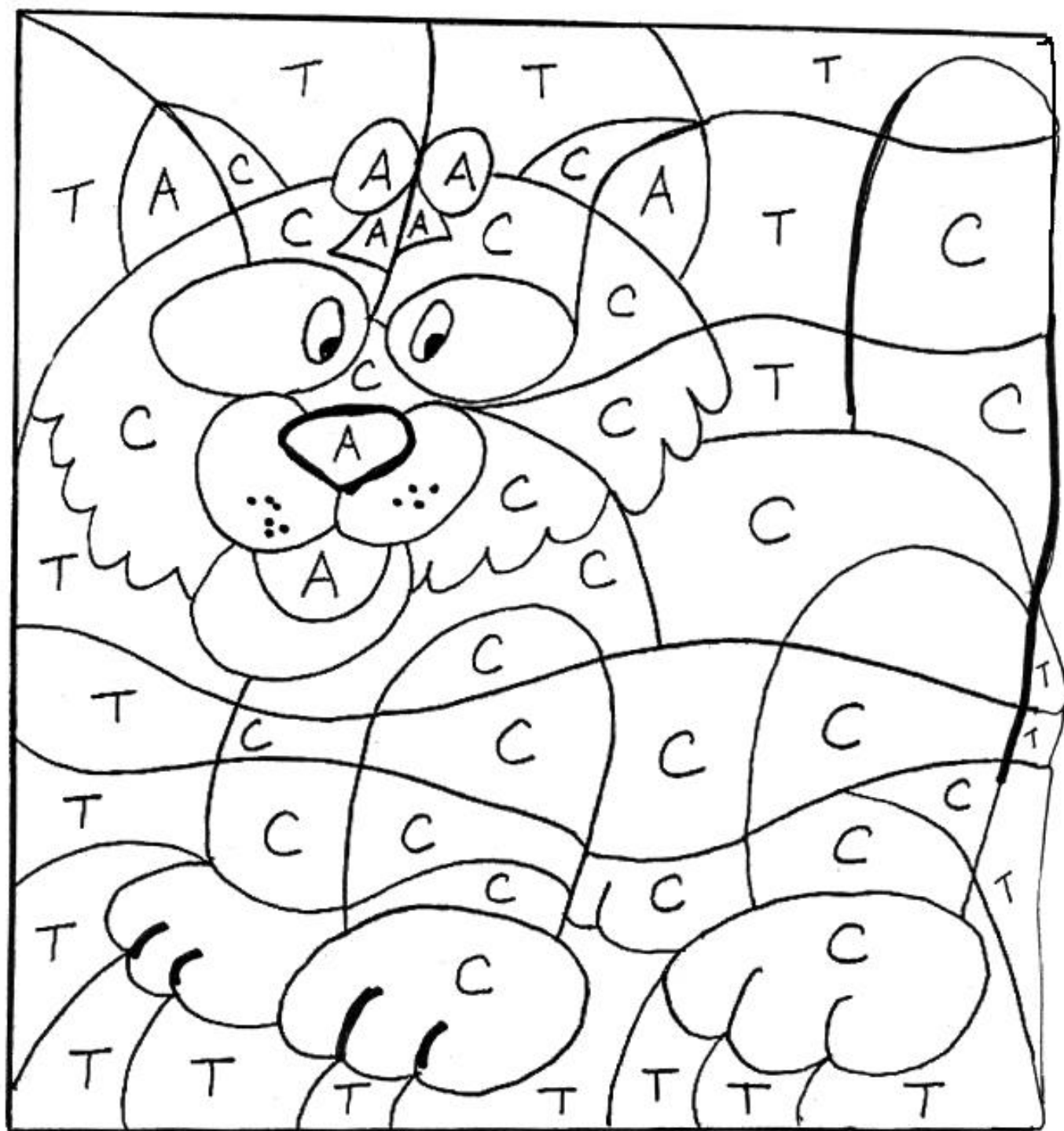
*"When the leaders lead in Israel, when the people willingly offer themselves, bless the LORD!" JUDGES 5:2*

### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. After the man named Ehud died, the Israelites began disobeying the LORD again. TRUE or FALSE
2. The LORD let a King named Jabin attack and conquer Israel. TRUE or FALSE
3. There was a woman named Princess Diana that was a prophetess in those days, and she helped to rule over Israel. TRUE or FALSE
4. One day Deborah sent a message to a man named Barak to come and talk with her because she had a message from the LORD for him. TRUE or FALSE
5. Barak told Deborah that he would go, but he didn't want her to go with them. TRUE or FALSE

### **ANSWER THE QUESTIONS**

1. What did Deborah tell Barak would happen if he went to battle against Sisera and King Jabin's army? Was the LORD going to let the Israelites win?
2. Did Barak get the ten thousand men together to go fight against Sisera?
3. What happened when Sisera went down to fight Barak? Did the LORD confuse them and make them afraid of Barak?
4. After Sisera's army was all defeated, he escaped and ran to where Heber and his wife Jael were. Did Jael act like she was going to be friends with Sisera?
5. Jael wasn't friendly with Sisera. Did she only pretend to hide him? What happened after he fell asleep? Did she kill him because he was the enemy?
6. Was Deborah right when she said that the LORD was going to let a woman defeat Sisera? Was that woman Jael, Heber's wife?



Color all the "C" spaces YELLOW



Color all the "A" spaces BLACK



Color all the "T" spaces GREEN



# LESSON 61 CRAFT/ACTIVITY

## God's Blindfold

Has God asked us to trust Him blindly? No! He has shown us His faithfulness and given us His Word. He has not asked us to close our eyes and jump off a cliff. He asks us to open our eyes, remember His faithfulness, and trust in Him. Deborah knew of God's faithfulness through the lives of Moses and Joshua.

Let the kids fold and cut out "God's blindfold." Use various colors of construction paper and yarn or string to tie them. Notice the difference with these blindfolds (they have holes in them so the children can see). These could be decorated with scripture references of God's faithfulness in the Bible.

## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust in the Lord no matter what, even when others refuse to follow Him. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

