



## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Like Deborah, Big Heroes are leaders.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn the importance of being a strong and kind leader.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Judges 4:4-16. Deborah Leads Israel.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*

**SUMMARY:**

Deborah was a prophet who led the people of Israel during a time before they had a king. People respected her leadership and would go to her to settle their disputes. When Deborah instructed Barak to go into battle against the enemy, he would only do so under her leadership. Under her strong, yet compassionate leadership, the Israelites prevailed. When we are willing to help and lead others, we can be heroes like Deborah.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*You have big plans for each of us. Make us good leaders and at all times, followers of you.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## MEMORY VERSE

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*

*"A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. Let us keep on running the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Split the main group in two. See which group can recite the memory verse from memory the loudest.

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word, from left to right, they will have said the memory verse.



## SKIT

### **BIG HERO EMPLOYMENT AGENCY: LEADERSHIP**

#### **ITEMS NEEDED:**

Desk  
Phone  
Chairs

#### **CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M, 2F**

#### **CHARACTERS:**

Gladys - Secretary  
Mr. Jones – Head of the Employment Agency  
Mary – Housekeeper

*Gladys sits behind the desk. Mary sits in the waiting area.*

*The phone rings. Gladys answers.*

GLADYS: Big Hero Employment Agency. Please don't hang up. *(looks into phone)*  
Hello, are you still there? You are? Well then, how can I help you? No, I would not be interested in buying a magazine subscription. Thank you.

*Gladys hangs up the phone as Mr. Jones enters.*

JONES: Gladys, do we have any clients today?

GLADYS: Yes, Mary is here to see you.

*Mary comes over to Mr. Jones.*

JONES: Good afternoon, Mary. How can the Big Hero Employment Agency be of service to you?

# SKIT

MARY: Housekeeper.

JONES: You are a housekeeper or you are looking for a housekeeper?

MARY: Yes.

JONES: Yes? To which one?

MARY: Both.

JONES: You are a housekeeper?

MARY: Yes.

JONES: And you're looking for a housekeeper?

MARY: Yes.

JONES: I'm confused.

MARY: I'm the head housekeeper over at the Hotel Marzipan. I oversee all of the twenty-two housekeepers who work at the hotel.

JONES: Oh, I see. And you need us to help you find a new housekeeper.

MARY: Exactly.

JONES: In that case, I know that we can help you. We have several people here trained in the art of cleaning. How many housekeepers are you looking to hire?

MARY: Twenty-two.

JONES: Twenty-two? Isn't that your-

MARY: My entire staff. Yes sir. It's time to replace them all.

JONES: I see. That's a pretty tall order. That might take some time. Let me see what I can do. I'll be right back. Please wait right here.

*Mr. Jones exits.*

GLADYS: Mary, if you don't mind my asking, why are you getting rid of all of your housekeepers?

# SKIT

MARY: I can't put up with them anymore. They're all so annoying.

GLADYS: That's a pretty harsh thing to say.

MARY: I know it is. But it's true. They don't know how to do anything. All day, every day, they are constantly coming to me with problems.

GLADYS: Like what?

MARY: Tina comes to me every day and asks me what rooms need to be cleaned. And Mark is always asking me to look over his work and make sure he's doing a good job. Beverly just sits around all day, because she isn't sure what she's supposed to be doing. I've had enough. Something needs to change.

GLADYS: I agree something needs to change. And that something is you.

MARY: Pardon me.

GLADYS: You don't need something. It's your staff that needs something.

MARY: And what do they need?

GLADYS: Leadership.

MARY: Leadership?

GLADYS: Yes, you're the boss, but they need more than a boss. They need you to become a leader. They need you to care about what they do. They need you to guide them and encourage them. Help them when they have a problem and praise them when they do something well.

MARY: Do you think I have what it takes to be a leader?

GLADYS: I bet you do. A leader needs to lead with strength and compassion and I'm sure you have those qualities. But it's always a good idea to ask God to make you into a good leader, as well.

MARY: Thanks. I think I'll give that a try.

*Mary hurries off. Mr. Jones reenters.*

JONES: Good news, Mary. I think that we can fulfill. . . Where did Mary go?

# SKIT

GLADYS: I think she had some housekeeping to do.

JONES: Gladys, what are you doing to me and my business?

GLADYS: Mr. Jones, has anyone ever told you that you were a natural-born leader?

JONES: Why no, they haven't.

GLADYS: Yeah, I'm not surprised.

*END.*



## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Roll of paper towels

Mug of water

*Show the roll of paper towels.*

Do you see these? Do you know what these are? These aren't just paper towels, they are the best paper towels on the market. That's because they are not only super absorbent, they are also strong. Let me demonstrate.

*Dump the water on the ground. Tear off a few sheets of paper towel and clean it up.*

See how absorbent it is. But it's also strong.

*Open up the wet paper towel. Have one of the kids hold it in place as you place the mug on top. Hopefully, the mug will hold; if not, play it off as the product not living up to the advertising.*

Leaders are a lot like paper towels. We don't expect them to mop up water, but we do expect them to be more than one thing at a time. Good leaders have to not only be strong, but they should be compassionate.

That's a lot to expect from one person. But if you are following God, he can make you into a strong and compassionate leader. A true two-ply hero.



# LARGE GROUP GAME

## LAWN DARTS

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Large Nerf Darts or Bean Bags  
Hula hoop

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Place a hula hoop on one end of that stage. This is the bulls-eye.

Choose as many kids as you have time for. One at a time, have kids send all of the Nerf darts to the other end of the stage, aiming for the bulls-eye. The kid with the most bulls-eyes wins.

### VARIATION:

For something easier to throw, you can use bean bags.

For a more competitive game, ditch the hula hoop. Tape off three concentric circles onto the stage with increased point values for progressively smaller circles.

### WHAT'S THE POINT?

In order to be a good leader, you need to "stay on target", and obey God just like Deborah did when she led Israel.





## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Like Deborah, Big Heroes are leaders.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn the importance of being a strong and kind leader.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Judges 4:4-16. Deborah Leads Israel.

### **INTRO**

We're still learning about what it takes to be a real life hero. Has anyone learned to fly yet? Oh ok, me either. But we have already seen virtues like obedience, faith, forgiveness, humility and commitment displayed in the lives of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and Joshua- heroes of the Bible.

Today, we're going to talk about someone who has a lot in common with these great men. The heroes we have talked about so far were all good leaders. They helped guide and direct the paths of others when they needed it. They lead with strength and compassion. The hero in today's story was also a leader like these men.

But there was also a big difference between the hero in today's story and these men. And that difference is that our hero today isn't a man at all. Today, we're going to talk about a prophetess named Deborah.

Nowadays, our leaders are men and women, but back in Bible times the positions of leadership were almost always filled by men. For a woman to rise up and be a leader, she had to be pretty extraordinary. And as we'll see, Deborah led her people to victory over their enemies with strength and compassion.

**READ Judges 4:4-16.**

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

## MAIN POINT

Deborah was a natural leader. At the beginning of this story, it says that the people came to her with their arguments so that she could settle them. The people trusted her judgment.

The people relied on her. When Deborah told Barak to go to battle against the enemy, Sisera, he said he would only go if Deborah went with him. He trusted her to lead them into victory. Barak trusted Deborah with his life.

Deborah had not originally planned to join in the battle; but when Barak asked her, she had compassion and agreed to go. (Even though, this change of plans did mean that the enemy would be delivered into the hands of someone other than Barak.)

In the next chapter of the Bible, it says that after this battle the land of Israel experienced forty years of peace. That's a pretty big accomplishment. That kind of success requires a good leader – one who leads with strength and compassion.

## DRIVE IT HOME

Many times in life, we are called to be followers. We follow our teacher's instructions. We do what our parents tell us. We might even listen when our older brothers and sisters tell us what to do.

But just as often, we are called to be leaders. Maybe you have a friend who does whatever you do first. The other students in your class may be watching to see whether you act up in class or whether you are respectful. At times, problems will arise that require you to step up and lead, even though you are kid.

Some of the people in Deborah's time might have thought, "She can't be a leader, she's a woman." But she proved to be a great leader. There might be people in your life who think you can't lead because you're a kid. But you can prove them wrong by living a life of strength and compassion. When you do, people will be drawn to you and they will follow your lead. If you take your lead from God, you can't go wrong. You'll become a great hero, just like Deborah.

God has great plans for you. And he calls you to tasks both great and small to bring about those plans. Those tasks may not always make sense, that's why we must stay committed.

## CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*You have big plans for each of us. Make us good leaders and, at all times, followers of you.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER

If you had to go into battle, who would you want standing by your side?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word, from left to right, they will have said the memory verse.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Form a line and walk around the room playing Follow the Leader. Have the kids take turns leading.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Read Judges 4:4-16.**

Who was Deborah?

Why did the people come to Deborah?

What instructions did Deborah give to Barak son of Abinoam?

Why is it good for a leader to pray?

How can someone be a good leader?

### SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Help us to lead with strength and compassion and to follow you at all times.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER

If you had to go into battle, who would you want standing by your side?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word, from left to right, they will have said the memory verse.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids act out the story as you read it. Read Judges 4:4-16

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Who was Deborah?

Why did Barak want Deborah to go with him into battle?

How did Deborah say Sisera would die?

Is it important for a leader to pray? Why?

What does it mean to be a good leader?

### SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Help us to lead with strength and compassion and to follow you at all times.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*



# POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

## TRUE or FALSE

Deborah was a prophet, a judge, and a leader.

TRUE

Barak asked Deborah not to go into battle with him.

FALSE

Sisera's army defeated the army of the Israelites.

FALSE

Sisera was killed by a woman.

TRUE

A good leader has strength and compassion.

TRUE



# MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

## Bible Heroes Lesson 6

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: DEBORAH



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Today we learned that big heroes lead with strength and compassion. Deborah was a judge and the leader of Israel. People brought their disputes to her because of her strong leadership. When the Lord instructed the Israelites to go into battle against the enemy, the leader of the Israelite forces would only go if Deborah went with them into battle. If we follow God, like Deborah did, we can be strong and compassionate leaders that others follow.



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Spend an hour or two in a little role reversal. Let your kids be the leaders – giving you instructions – and you follow. Afterward, discuss the experience as well as the qualities required to be a good leader, and a good follower.



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did the people bring their problems to Deborah?
- Why would Barak only go into battle with Deborah there?
- What makes someone a good leader?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*



#### PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Every good leader must also be a good follower. Take some time this week to work on your following skills when it comes to your relationship with God.



## MATCHING GAME

Deborah

Leader of the enemy troops

Barak

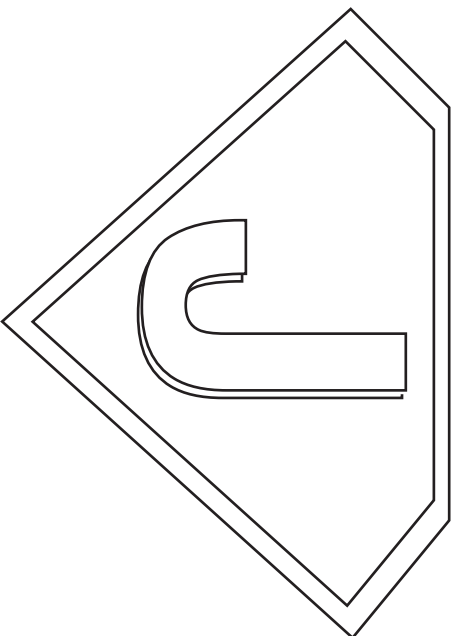
Leader and judge of Israel

Sisera

The location where Barak set up camp

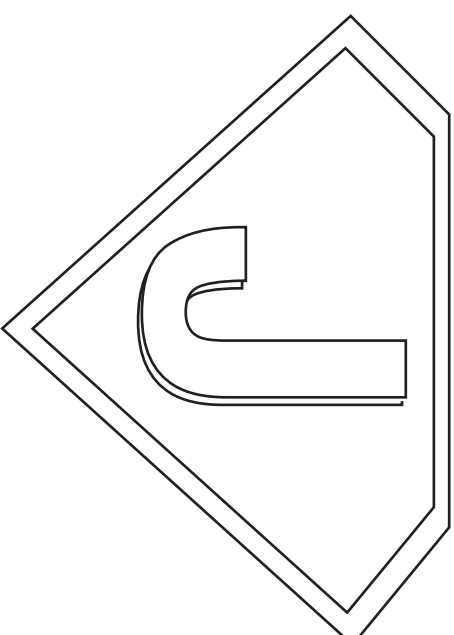
Mount Tabor

Commanded the Israelite troops



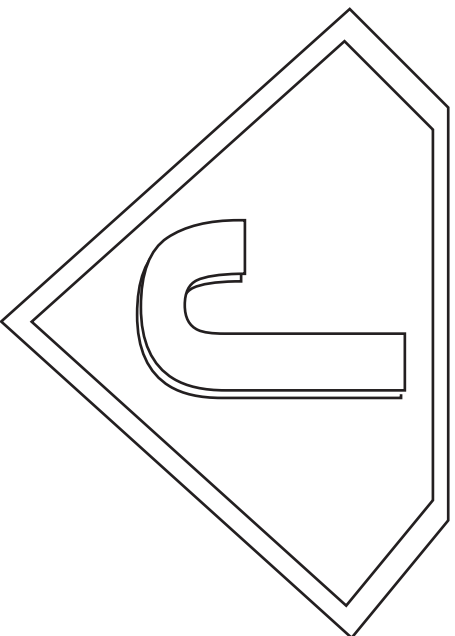
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- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



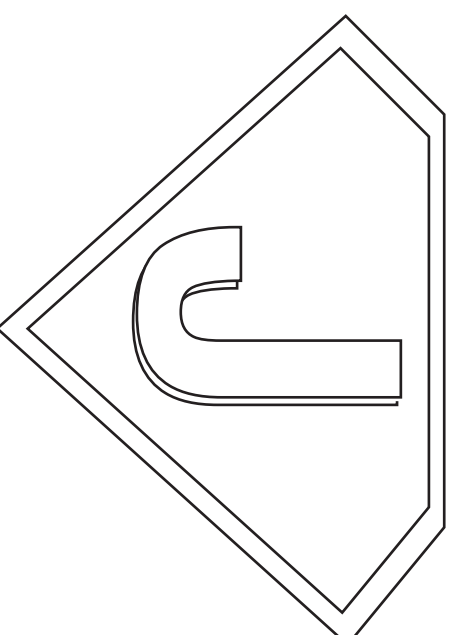
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