



Deborah, the Judge

Lesson Aim: To know God gives us judges.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Watches Over Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Judges 4:4-5; 5:7

What He has done: God gave the Israelites a judge named Deborah.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Judge fairly."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Unit 7: The King Who Watches Over Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
33	Deborah, the Judge, Judges 4:4-5; 5:7	God gave the Israelites a judge named Deborah.	To know God gives us judges.
34	Gideon Goes to Battle, Judges 7:17-21	God gave Gideon and His people a victory.	To know we can trust God's plan.
35	Samson and the Gate, Judges 13:5; 16:2-3	God made Samson strong.	To know God makes us strong.
36	Ruth and Naomi, Ruth 1:8-18	God gave Ruth and Naomi a special friendship.	To know God gives us special friends who worship Him with us.
37	Samuel and Eli, 1 Samuel 3:1-10	God called Samuel.	To know we should listen to God.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Isaiah 11:1-5. Please join us in praying, "Lord, thank You for giving us judges like Deborah. We pray you would raise up future leaders and judges who follow You, so they may lead the next generation in righteousness. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, palm leaf or a stamp or sticker of a palm tree
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Judge fairly."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Can Do Everything" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "It's Praise Time" "I Will Listen" "I Am with You" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" "I'm in the Lord's Army" "How Great Is Our God" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarment Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 33
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Judges 4:4-5; 5:7	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Judges 4:5 Visual: Palm branch or a picture of a palm tree
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Deborah's Tree	Small cup (6-8 oz) with a flat bottom, sturdy green and white paper, tape, crayons or markers, optional: sturdy brown paper
		Game: Judge Fairly	Ten toy blocks (or large marbles, shells, or game pieces), two palm branches (real or cut from sturdy green paper)
		Game: Pray for Our Judges	Palm branch (real or cut from sturdy green paper)
		Snack: A Fair Snack	Crackers (or any snack with bite-size portions)
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 7, Lesson 33 Color This Story: "Deborah Judges Under the Palm Tree"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Judges 4:4-5; 5:7	None
	Up to 10	Game: Jesus Gives Me Strength!	Soft ball for rolling
	Up to 10	Game: "God's Strength" Memory Pass	Bible open to Philippians 4:13, wood block or small toy
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about Deborah or about judging what is right and fair

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Judge fairly

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a palm leaf or a stamp or sticker of a palm tree. **Let this palm leaf (or stamp or sticker of a palm tree) help you remember how Deborah judged the people from under a palm tree. Today's Whisper Verse is "Judge fairly."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Judge fairly."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- "Judge"** Create the letter "F" hand shape with both hands by placing the tips of the thumb and the index finger together in a circle, leaving the remaining three fingers upright and separated. Move both hands up and down in opposite directions, as if weighing things on a balance scale.
- "fairly."** With the fingers of the right hand separated and the palm facing left, waggle the right hand back and forth slightly.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Judge fairly," Deuteronomy 1:16. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The King who watches over us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play “It’s Praise Time!” as children move to that designated area.



It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to God as our King who watches over us. He watches over everyone in the whole world! Sing: “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.”

He is watching now as we sing and give our offering to Him. Let’s give our offering now. As the offering basket is passed, listen to our new Bible Memory Verse Song. Later, we will sing it together. Play: “I Can Do Everything” as background music while collecting the offering.

How do we know God is watching over us? (Children respond.) We know because, in the Bible, God promised He is watching over us! Let’s sing about His promise now. Sing: “I Am with You.”

God watches over His people and gives us what we need. Long ago, when His people needed a leader, He gave them Deborah as their judge. A judge makes fair and right choices. That reminds me of our Whisper Verse. Let’s whisper, “Judge fairly.” Review the Whisper Verse together: “Judge fairly.” Include sign language.



Do you think Delbert and Lello know about judges? Let’s call them out here and see! Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 33.



Can you imagine being an important judge like Deborah? God helped Deborah and God helps us in everything we do. That’s what the Bible says! Listen to our new Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing along when you are ready. Sing: “I Can Do Everything.”



Deborah, the judge

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;

Point to eyes.

My mouth quiet as can be,

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

I will listen to hear,

Cup hand around ear.

How God loves you and me.

Hug self, point to others and then self.

Last time, we learned we should show kindness to others. Today, we will hear how God gave Deborah to judge His people. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Judges 4:5.

WATCH THE WORD: JUDGES 4:4-5; 5:7

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold a palm branch or a picture of a palm tree to symbolize the Palm of Deborah. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- God watched over His people;
- They needed a judge and leader.
- God sent Deborah to be like their mother,
- At the palm tree they would meet her.

- Whenever God's people disagreed,
- On who was wrong or right;
- They always came to her palm tree,
- And Judge Deborah would decide!

God gave judges to his people. One judge was a wise woman named Deborah. What did God send Deborah to do? (Judge fairly.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Judge fairly." Include sign language or hand motions.



Where did Deborah sit when she judged? (Under a palm tree.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Judges 4:5 from the teacher's Bible.



God gives us judges

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: DEBORAH'S TREE

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of Deborah.

Supplies: Small cup (6-8 oz) with a flat bottom, sturdy green and white paper, tape, crayons or markers, optional: sturdy brown paper

Prepare: From sturdy green paper, cut the shape of four palm leaves. Print "**Judge fairly.**" **Deuteronomy 1:16** on one of the palm leaves. From sturdy white paper, draw and cut out a 2" tall figure of a woman to be Deborah.

Directions for children:

1. Decorate four palm leaves with crayons or markers.
2. Optional: Color the cup brown or cover it with brown paper for the tree trunk.
3. Turn the cup upside down (tree trunk) and tape the leaves to the top of trunk (bottom of the cup).
4. Color Deborah.
5. Tape Deborah to the side of the cup, under the palm leaves.

Craft Discussion:

- **A judge is someone who decides what is right and fair.**
- **Deborah was a judge. What did God send Deborah to do?** (Judge fairly.)
- **That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say Whisper Verse together with hand motions.
- **Where did Deborah sit when she judged?** (Under a palm tree.)
- **When God's people could not agree, they went to Deborah. When they had a problem they could not solve, they went to Deborah. She would decide what the right and fair choice.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: JUDGE FAIRLY

Purpose: Children will practice judging fairly.

Supplies: Ten toy blocks (or large marbles, shells, or game pieces), two palm branches (real or cut from sturdy green paper)

God sent Deborah to judge fairly. Now, you can pretend to be a judge like Deborah and judge fairly, too!

Directions:

1. Choose a child to stand and hold the palm branches.
2. Choose a child as the judge to sit under the palm tree.
3. Place the ten toy blocks on the floor nearby.
4. Choose two children to be judged.
5. The two children being judged pick up a handful of blocks and stack them in front of the judge. They ask, **"Is this fair?"**
6. The remaining children say and sign the Whisper Verse to the judge, **"Judge fairly."**
7. The judge compares the two stacks to see if they are equal.
8. The judge counts and restacks the blocks into two equal stacks. If there is an uneven amount of blocks, the judge may add a block from the remaining blocks.
9. Repeat the game until each child has a turn as the judge.

GAME: PRAY FOR OUR JUDGES

Purpose: Children will consider who God gave them as judges and pray for them.

Supplies: Palm branch (real or cut from sturdy green paper)

God gives us judges. A judge is a wise person who decides what is right and fair. In this game, we will all pray for the person God has given to you as a judge.

In your home, who is the judge that decides what is right and fair when you disagree with a brother, sister, or friend? (Parent, grandparent or caretaker.) **When you are in a classroom, who decides what is right and fair when you disagree with a classmate?** (Teacher, helper.)

Directions:

1. Seat children on the floor in a circle.
2. Teacher walks around the outside of the circle with the palm branch.
3. Teacher touches a child's shoulder with the palm branch and asks, **"Who did God give you as a judge?"**
4. Child answers with the name of a parent, grandparent, caretaker, or teacher.
5. All children respond, **"Lord, help name of child's judge to judge fairly."** Include sign language or hand motions when saying "judge fairly."
6. Continue playing until each child has a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: A FAIR SNACK

Purpose: Children will divide the snack into equal portions to remember the role of one who judges fairly.

Snack Suggestion: Crackers (or any bite-size snack such as small cookies, grapes, raisins, etc.)

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank you for our blessings. Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "Judge fairly."
 - **Who sent Deborah to be a judge? (God.) A judge is someone who decides what is right and fair.**
 - **Let's judge fairly with our snack servings. As you are served your snack, count your crackers to make sure you each have the same number of crackers.**
 - Distribute crackers. Together, children count aloud the number of crackers in their serving. Children share crackers until each child has the same number of crackers.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank you for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Deborah's Tree" craft. Tell someone God gives us judges to decide what is right and fair. Talk about the people in your home, in your church, or in your school who God has given as judges.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how a judge is someone who decides what is right and fair.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Deborah Judges Under the Palm Tree." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Can Do Everything" as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: JUDGES 4:4-5; 5:7

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the Bible Story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **God watched over His people;** (Use hands as binoculars.)
- **They wanted a judge and leader.** (Praying hands.)
- **God sent Deborah to be like their mother,** (Point to heaven.)
- **At the palm tree they would meet her.** (Wave arms like palm branches.)

- **Whenever God's people disagreed,** (Fold arms and shake head "no".)
- **On who was wrong or right;** (Shrug shoulders with palms facing up.)
- **They always came to her palm tree,** (Walk in place.)
- **And Judge Deborah would decide!** (Thumbs up.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

GAME: JESUS GIVES ME STRENGTH!

Purpose: Children will realize Jesus gives them strength.

Supplies: Soft ball for rolling

The Bible says, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

Directions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Teacher rolls the ball to a child.
3. The child holds the ball and says an activity that is hard for that child to do. (Tying a shoe, riding a bike, sharing toys, counting, reading, swimming, etc.)
4. Everyone says to the child with the ball, "**Jesus can give you strength to child's activity.**"
5. Child rolls the ball to another child. Continue playing until each child has a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: "GOD'S STRENGTH" MEMORY PASS

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bible open to Philippians 4:13, wood block or small toy

Teacher Tip: If there are more than 10 children, begin each new round with the child who finished the last round to make sure each child has a turn holding and passing the block. For very large groups, divide into two circles that play simultaneously.

Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Now, let's take turns saying it one word at a time until we've said the whole verse.

Directions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Give the wood block to the first child.
3. Teacher says, "I." As the children repeat the word, "I," the child holding the wood block passes it to the next child in the circle.
4. Teacher says, "can." As the children repeat the word, "can," the child holding the wood block passes it to the next child in the circle.
5. Continue passing the block until the children have repeated the entire verse.
6. Play again. Each time you play, try to pass the block and say the Bible Memory Verse faster.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, a story about Deborah, or about judging what is right and fair.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 7, Lesson 33: Deborah, the Judge

PONDER! Read Judges 4:4-5; 5:7 with your family. Talk about how Deborah judged under the palm tree. When people had disagreements they could not solve, they went to Deborah. Judges help people decide what is right and fair. Who judges what is right and fair in your family?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for giving us judges to help us decide what is right and fair. Help them to judge fairly. Amen."

PLAY! Share a snack together! Set out a plate of your family's favorite cookies or crackers. Choose one person to judge a fair amount of snack for each person. Take turns judging! As you enjoy your snack, talk about a time when someone in your family had to judge what was right and fair.

Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse: Philippians 4:13

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."