



# Deborah Leads the Israelites

**Judges 4:1-16**

**Running time:** Approximately 6 minutes

**Setting:** The set for Units 7-10 is designed to look like the outside of the King City Herald, a large newspaper building circa 1940's. A door leads to the office. A phone booth provides the place for the superheroes' quick costume changes. The center panel can be removed to reveal the superheroes "Secret Lab," filled with screens and gadgets (similar to Batman's Bat Cave), where the heroes watch over the city. There is a useable fire escape with a door and a ladder down to ground level. There is a ramp on stage right. For added interest, build windows, entrances, and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

**Characters:** Scoop Gibson is a street-wise, savvy reporter who hides his secret identity as superhero "Scripture Guy." Kasey Carter is a young, college-educated reporter (can be male or female) whose secret identity is superhero "Kingdom Crusader."

**Plot:** Kasey arrives in King City excited to begin his/her new job and meets Scoop, the chief reporter. After Scoop shares the story of Deborah and Barak, they decide to work as a team. We learn God is the one who gives us the leaders and the victories we need.

**Costumes:** Fedoras, 1940's Zoot suits (high-waist, wide-legged, tight-cuffed pegged trousers, long coat with wide lapels and wide padded shoulders) and/or 1940's dress suit (padded shoulders, thin belt), Superhero costumes worn underneath (cap, face mask, body suit, tights, etc.), "SG" emblem on Scripture Guy costume, "KC" emblem on Kingdom Crusader costume.

**Props:** Suitcase, business card, note pads, pencils, newspaper, Bible.

**Sound effects (SFX):**

1. Intro/Outro music
2. "Kansas City" karaoke from "Oklahoma"
3. Heroic music
4. Newspaper box: "Good News" or other triumphant song clip. Music plays when box is opened to reveal the Bible.
5. Glissando
6. Telephone ring
7. Distant sirens
8. Radio static

**Visual effects (VFX):**

1. Video Intro featuring superheroes is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Fallback slide reads "King City Chronicles"
3. A newspaper box holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
4. Scripture Slide: **"Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came to her to have their disputes decided."** Judges 4:4-5
5. Strobos, moving lights

**Adaptations:**

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form at ResourceWell.org

**King City Chronicles**  
**Unit 7, Lesson 33**  
**Deborah Leads the Israelites**  
**Judges 4:1-16**

**Voiceover** (VFX: short video intro)

**Dateline: King City, a city devoted to the glory of God. But in her dark underbelly there are villains gathering...evil men who seek to steal God's glory! Will King City find her hero? Can she be saved and restored to her former glory? For the answer to these questions and more, tune in every week to the King City Chronicles!**

**Kasey** (Enters through audience with suitcase.)  
**Make way! Coming through! Excuse me! Pardon me! I can't be late. It's my first day! Oh, I'm so excited! I have to find the newspaper office. You see, this is my very first time in the big city, King City!**

(SFX: "Kansas City" accompaniment track, Kasey and cast sing the following lyrics.)

**Everything's gonna be great here in King City, I've come about as fur as I can go! They went and built a skyscraper seven stories high. About as high as a buildin' orta grow! Everything's like a dream here in King City. It's better than a movin' picture show. I grew up in the country where I couldn't afford no shoes. Then I went to college where I learned to pay my dues. And now I'm goin' to be working for the local Herald News!**

**I've gone about as fur as I could go, I've gone about as fur as I could go!**

**Granny** (puppet in window)

**BE QUIET! Will you can all that racket! There's a baby sleeping up here.** (All scatter except Kasey.)

**Kasey**

**Sorry! (softly) I've gone about as fur as I could go, really can't go any further. I don't know where the editor's office is.**

**Scoop** (enters through news office door)

**You must be the new kid in town.**

**Kasey**

**I am! How did you know?**

**Scoop**

**For one thing you're singin' about being the new kid in town.**

**Kasey**

**Oh, yeah.**

**Scoop**

**You here for the reporter's job?**

**Kasey** (Hands him a card.)

**That's right! Kasey Carter, journalist! I just got my BA from KCU!**

**Scoop**

**Well that's A-ok. A college kid, huh?**

**Kasey**

**Yes, sir! I graduated fourth in my class.**

**Scoop**

**Impressive. How many were in your class?**

**Kasey**

**Five...but they were all really smart!**

**Scoop**

**I believe you, kid. I like you, that's why I'm gonna' help you.**

**Kasey**

**You are?**

**Scoop**

**I am. I know a little something about the news biz. Which paper you working for?**

**Kasey** (Holds up newspaper)

**The King City Herald! Only, I haven't started yet. I can't find the office.**

**Scoop**

**It's right over there.**

**Kasey** (Heads for news office door.)

**Thanks, mister!**

**Scoop**

Just a minute, kid. You don't want to go in there just yet.

**Kasey**

I don't?

**Scoop**

I know the editor and you don't want to go in there until you're prepared.

**Kasey**

Oh, I'm prepared! I went to college!

**Scoop**

Yea, yea, so I heard, fourth in your class. But I ain't talkin' about the kinda' stuff you learn at KCU. I'm talkin' about...the truth!

**Kasey**

The truth? (SFX: Glissando)

**Scoop**

The truth!? (SFX: Glissando)

**Kasey**

Where do I find this "truth?" (SFX: Glissando)

**Scoop**

There's only one place to get the truth. You gotta' read the Good News!

**Kasey** (Holds up newspaper.)

The King City Herald?!

**Scoop**

No! The Herald is a good paper, but the Good News...well that's straight from God.

**Kasey**

Well, where is it? Where is it?!

**Scoop**

See that box over there? Open it up.

(Pause.) Go on. Don't be shy.

(Kasey opens box, SFX: "Good News," VFX: Beam of light shines from box.)

**Kasey**

Wowzers! Does it always do that?

**Scoop**

Every day and twice on Sunday. Bring it over here and I'll read you today's news. This here report takes place in Israel.

**Kasey**

Jeepers! International News.

**Scoop**

Yup. You see, the Israelites were God's people, but they had a habit of doing wrong in God's eyes. So, He sent them a judge named Deborah to help get them back on track.

**Kasey**

A dame?

**Scoop** (VFX: Scripture slide)

Not just any dame! She was their leader! The Bible says: "Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came to her to have their disputes decided." Judges 4:4-5

**Kasey**

So, she was in charge of all of Israel?

**Scoop**

Yes, one day, Deborah told an Israelite named Barak that the Lord wanted him to lead Israel's warriors against the army of the Canaanites. But Barak refused to go unless Deborah came with him.

**Kasey**

She must have been very brave!

**Scoop**

The bravest! She warned Barak that if she went along, the Lord would give the honor of victory to a woman instead of to him.

**Kasey**

What happened next? Who went?

**Scoop**

They both went...together! Deborah told Barak to start the attack down the mountain. So, he went with ten thousand Israelites.

**Kasey**

That's teamwork! Did they win?

**Scoop**

What do you think? The Israelite army chased away the entire Canaanite army with their 900 iron chariots. You see kid, God gave Deborah and Barak the victory!

**Kasey**

Wow, that's one rip-snorthing story!

**Scoop**

That's not just a story! That's "The truth!"  
(SFX: Glissando)

**Kasey**

Gee whiz, I wish I were part of a winning team like Deborah and Barak. I'm new in town and I'm afraid I'm all alone.

**Scoop**

Not anymore, kid. I got a good feeling about you. Tell you what I'm gonna' do. I'm gonna' team up with you and show you how things work around here.

**Kasey**

You'd do that for me? But, I don't even know your name.

**Scoop**

It's right there in the paper, Scoop Gibson.

**Kasey** (Reads newspaper)

Scoop Gibson! *The Scoop* Gibson?! Why you're the best reporter ever!

**Scoop**

Don't believe everything you hear in the press, kid. I get a lot of help.

**Kasey**

Wow, Mr. Gibson, I think you're just super!

**Scoop**

Thanks, kid. Call me Scoop. (SFX: phone rings) That's for me! Scoop here! What? Where? Thanks for the tip. We'll be right there! (Hangs up phone.) Okay kid, you wanna be a reporter?

**Kasey**

More than anything!

**Scoop**

I'm gonna give you your first big headline! Go in that door and ask for Pepper Rooney; he's the editor. Tell him, "Scoop sent ya'."

**Kasey**

Scoop sent me! (SFX: distant sirens)

**Scoop**

That's right. Tell him there's a big fire downtown and you're gonna' cover that story! Got that?

**Kasey**

Got it! Thanks, Mr. Gibson!

**Scoop**

Scoop!

**Kasey** (Exiting through office door.)

Scoop! I won't let you down! Stop the presses! Stop the presses! (SFX: "Heroic music," static, VFX: strobes, moving lights)

**Scoop** (Enters phone booth.)

Now to put out that fire and save King City from danger! This is a job for Scripture Guy! (Exits phone booth dressed as Scripture Guy.) I give everything to honor my King! (exits.)

(SFX: "Heroic music" continues)