



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God has given you special gifts to use for Him.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God has given us all talents and abilities to be used to serve Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

Judges 4:4-15, Deborah

MEMORY VERSE:

"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end." Daniel 4:3 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Okay, so Deborah really didn't have a beard like a man; but she did lead the people like only men in Israel had done before or after. She judged Israel with wisdom and strength and led them to victory in one of their greatest battles.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the spiritual gifts you have given us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



MEMORY VERSE

“How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.” Daniel 4:3 (NIV)

“His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end.” Daniel 4:3 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Have all the fifth/sixth graders (whatever the oldest age in the room may be) read the verse first. Then add the next grade down and repeat. Add the next grade down, and repeat. Keep repeating until everyone is reading together.

SMALL GROUP:

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.



SKIT

MEET THE NOT-SO-BEARDED LADY

ITEMS NEEDED:

A ringmaster's costume for Adam
A Biblical costume for Deborah

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1 M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Adam - A circus ringmaster
Deborah - The prophet

Adam enters and takes center stage.

ADAM: Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, gather 'round, and step right up! The Bible Circus is back to astound you with feats and sights strange and rare! Step right up and be the first to see what God has done for these amazing people. How amazing? What if I told you there was a woman who knew the will of God? What if I told you there was a woman in Biblical times who would rise up and save her people from their enemies? What if I told you this woman had a beard? Say hello to the bearded lady prophet of Israel... Deborah!

Deborah enters.

DEBORAH: What's all this about me having a beard? It's not true, I tell you! Completely untrue!

ADAM: Have you ever seen a woman so bearded?

DEBORAH: I don't HAVE a beard!

ADAM: Can you believe this woman saved her people?

DEBORAH: Can you believe this guy with the beard thing? What's wrong with him?

SKIT

ADAM: Is it not true that the Lord told you to speak to Barak and tell him to lead the Lord's army?

DEBORAH: This is true.

ADAM: Is it also true that Barak wanted you to go with him into battle?

DEBORAH: This is also true.

ADAM: Is it true that the Lord told you to tell Barak that the honor of defeating the evil King Sisera would not be his, but would fall to a woman?

DEBORAH: You got that one right as well.

ADAM: Is it true that you had the most beautiful, the most majestic beard in all of Israel?

DEBORAH: NO!!!

ADAM: Really? You never had a beard?

DEBORAH: Never.

ADAM: Oh. Heh. My mistake. Well, without the beard, I guess this has all been a waste of time. People come to the circus to see incredible things like bearded ladies.

DEBORAH: Don't you think it's incredible when God calls someone to be a prophet?

ADAM: Well, I suppose.

DEBORAH: Don't you think it's incredible that God granted me with such an amazing gift?

ADAM: Yes, that's pretty incredible.

DEBORAH: Don't you think it's incredible when someone uses the gift the Lord gives them to do something great?

ADAM: Well, yes, I do!

DEBORAH: Then I take my bow and say, "Thank you... but all glory to God!"

SKIT

ADAM: There you have it, ladies and gentlemen, the great prophet Deborah, bearded lady of Israel!

DEBORAH: I don't have a beard!

ADAM: Well, excuse me!



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A musical keyboard

Ask if there's someone who wants to come up and play something on the keyboard. Choose one child, and have them play 30-60 seconds of something they know.

How many of you are musically talented? Who here can play piano? Who can sing? Can anyone play guitar? Any other instruments?

How many of the rest of you couldn't do anything musical if your life depended on it? God made us all unique. He gave each one of us talents that are uniquely ours. He also gave us all spiritual gifts that we are to use in His service.

God has a special plan only you can fulfill, and your spiritual gifts are part of that plan. Ask God to show you your gifts, and ask Him to show you how to use those gifts in His service. Like the prophet Deborah, who did NOT have a beard, you can do something amazing with the gifts God gave you.



LARGE GROUP GAME

BEARD FACE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Aprons or smocks (towels for clean up)
Shaving cream

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two teams of two for this game. Put a smock on one member of each team. The two teams will have 60 seconds in which time the second player will use shaving cream to create and shape a beard on their teammate. Let a team of judges, or the audience, decide whose beard looks best!

VARIATION:

You can substitute another sticky/funny substance besides shaving cream for this game.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God has given each one of us unique gifts to use for Him.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God has given you special gifts to use for Him.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God has given us all talents and abilities to be used to serve Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

Judges 4:4-15, Deborah

INTRO:

Ladies and gentlemen... did you know that there are some uniquely gifted people here this morning? That's right. This morning, sitting among you, there are people who can do something not every person in the world can do. These unique individuals are gifted in a special way, and right now, we're going to reveal who they are.

Everyone stand up. Now, stick out your tongue. Now, I want each and every one of you to roll your tongue into a hot dog shape! Come on. Who can roll their tongue? If you can roll your tongue, raise your hand. If you can't roll your tongue, raise your hand. You see what I mean? There are some uniquely talented people among us!

Now here's the question: who are the ones with the unique talent? Are the people who can roll their tongues "normal", or the people who can't roll their tongue?

I'm only teasing of course. In God's eyes we are all unique, and we are all loved. In the early days of the circus however, the circus organizers sought out people who were viewed as "not normal" to be part of their show. They looked for people who had unique talents- like a contortionist who could bend their body in impossible ways - or for people who looked different than what was considered normal - like someone who was really tall or the bearded lady.

In the early days of the circus, these people would have been labeled as "strange" or "weird" but God doesn't label anyone like that and neither should we. Everyone is loved by God, and everyone deserves to be shown love and respect no matter how they look.

Today we're talking about a woman who... did not have a beard. But like the bearded ladies, she had a special gift. She was a prophet, a woman who received messages from the Lord.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

She didn't use her gift for personal gain, but she used it to serve God and save her people.

READ JUDGES 4:4-15

MAIN POINT:

The book of Judges tells us about a time before Israel had a king. The rulers of the people were called judges, and they included Gideon, Samson, and of course, Deborah.

Deborah was special because she had the gift of prophecy. When she spoke, the people knew it was from the Lord. God told Deborah to send the army of Israel into battle against the wicked King Sisera, and she commanded Barak to do just that. When Barak was afraid to go it alone, Deborah agreed to go with him, knowing the victory would be theirs.

Deborah was a great leader because she was willing to use her gift for God. Deborah reminds us that we are all gifted in many ways, and God wants us to use those gifts for God.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Many of you can probably identify the talents the Lord has given you. Some of you are musical. Some are artistic. Some are great writers. Some are great athletes. These talents come from the Lord, and He wants us to use them for His glory, but that's not the kind of gift we are talking about in Deborah's story.

Deborah's gift of prophecy is what we call a spiritual gift. This is a gift that can only be used for God's glory. Spiritual gifts include things like leadership, wisdom, charity, and faith. Spiritual gifts make us great teachers, mentors, prayer warriors, worshippers, and servants. These are gifts that God uses to share His love with other people.

Just as each of you have talents, you have spiritual gifts. They may not be as obvious as the talents you have in sports or academics or the arts, but they are just as real. God wants us to discover our gifts and use them so that we can fulfill God's plan for our lives.

God had a plan for Deborah. He used Deborah to defeat Sisera and save Israel. God has a plan for each one of you as well, and your spiritual gifts are a key part of that plan. When you find your spiritual gifts, you will then be able to put them to use in a way that honors the Lord and leads other people to Jesus.

Deborah had a special gift. She used it as God intended, and she saved her people. What will God do with you and your gifts?

LARGE GROUP LESSON

That's the question we all need to ask, and when we find the answer, we need to be faithful to see His plan through!

Ask God to show you your gifts so that you can serve Him too!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the spiritual gifts you have given us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one of your many talents?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Daniel 4:3

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Get some craft supplies or fabrics together, and let the kids come up with their own creative and funny looking beards.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Judges 4:4-15

Who was Deborah?

What was her spiritual gift?

What did Deborah tell Barak to do?

Does God give everyone spiritual gifts?

What is the purpose of our spiritual gifts?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us our spiritual gifts so we can use them for You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one of your many talents?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Daniel 4:3

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Get some craft supplies or fabrics together, and let the kids come up with their own creative and funny looking beards.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Judges 4:4-15

What was Deborah's spiritual gift?

How did Deborah use her spiritual gift to save Israel?

What is the purpose of our spiritual gifts?

What can we do to discover our spiritual gifts?

Why is it important to use those gifts for God?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us our spiritual gifts so we can use them for You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK

_____ was a judge who ruled Israel.

DEBORAH

Deborah had the _____ of prophecy and received messages from the Lord.

GIFT/ SPIRITUAL GIFT

Deborah told _____ to mobilize the army of Israel.

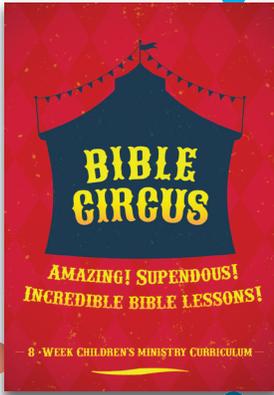
BARAK

With Deborah's leadership, Barak defeated the evil King _____.

SISERA

_____ has given each one of us gifts we can use to serve Him.

GOD



MAKE IT STICK

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

Bible Circus Lesson 2

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: DEBORAH, THE BEARDED LADY



IN THE CAR:

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

Okay, so Deborah really didn't have a beard like a man; but she did lead the people like only men in Israel had done before or after. She judged Israel with wisdom and strength and led them to victory in one of their greatest battles. Judges 4:4-15, Deborah



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Sit down with your kids and take stock of the talents God has given each of you. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, and ask your kids how spiritual gifts are different from talents.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who was Deborah, and what did she do?
- How did Deborah use her spiritual gift for God?
- Why is it important to use our spiritual gifts for God?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end." Daniel 4:3 (NirV)



PARENT TIME:

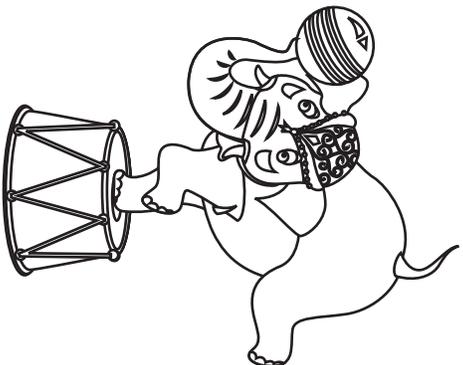
What you need to know:

God has a unique plan for each of us. He has given us all unique spiritual gifts to help us fulfill that plan. Ask God to reveal the gifts He's given to your children so they can use those gifts in His service.

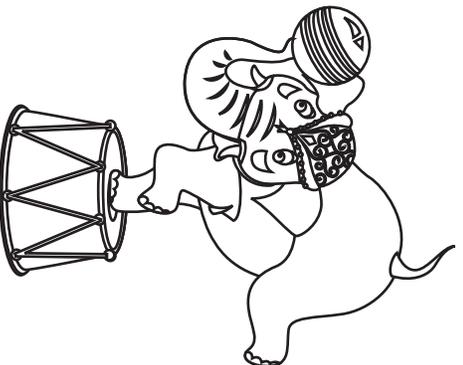


CRAFT ACTIVITY

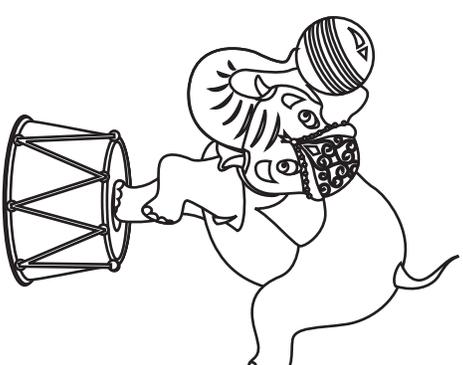
Have the kids draw and cut out a face from some paper. Then have them use construction paper to cut out, design, and glue on a funny beard to their face.



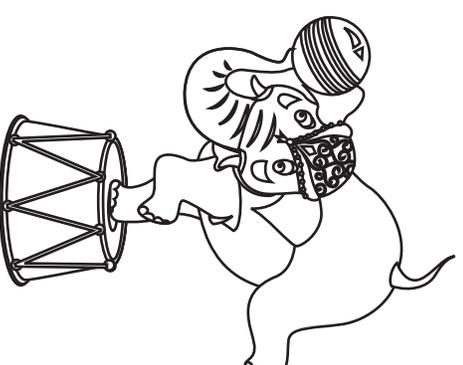
"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty.
His kingdom will last forever. His rule will
never end." - Daniel 4:3 (NIRV)



"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty.
His kingdom will last forever. His rule will
never end." - Daniel 4:3 (NIRV)



"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty.
His kingdom will last forever. His rule will
never end." - Daniel 4:3 (NIRV)



"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty.
His kingdom will last forever. His rule will
never end." - Daniel 4:3 (NIRV)