

LESSON FOUR

LESSON NOTES FOR STD VI

JOSHUA AND THE JUDGES. – Deborah

AIM :**General:**

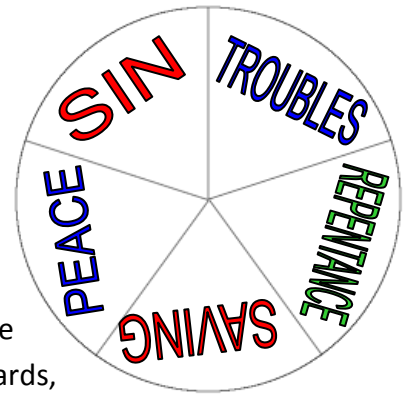
1. To tell the story of Deborah, prophet and judge: How she guided, challenged and inspired Barak and his army to overthrow their oppressor- King Jabin, and his commander-in-chief Sisera.
2. To illustrate the '65- Stage Cycle' through this story.
3. To draw attention to Deborah's alertness to God's action and words; and her readiness to be used by him.

Personal: To encourage the children to be alert to what God is doing and saying in any situation and to be ready to be his instrument.

Text: Judges Chapters 4 and 5

STARTER: Recap Puzzle. (10mins)

- (Prepare before-hand: circles of chart paper [radius 3 inches"])
- Divide into 5 wedges. Write the words SIN, TROUBLES, REPENTANCE, SAVING, PEACE on the edge of each section. Cut the circles to make 5 separate pieces. You should make enough circles for each child to get one piece. E.g. if you have 20 children make 4 circles,
- Mix all the pieces in a bag and let each child pick one. Ask them to move around and find the other 4 children who have different words on their cards. They must sit together and form the circle on the desk in correct order. Announce a prize to the team who is ready first. (The circle should be correct Also.) NB. If you have e.g 23 children give one extra piece to 2 Children, so that all the circles can be completed.
- Go over the order of the cycle allowing the children to elaborate on each stage. E.g. SIN: The Israelites sinned by turning away from the true God and worshipping Baal etc.

**INPUT: (10mins)**

Today we are going to read the story of Deborah, one of the judges of Israel. As I read, keep your Pencil ready and mark on your puzzle pieces which verse (or verses) best show the 5 stages of the cycle.

E.g. If you find a sentence saying- 'The people were suffering and were treated badly;' check the verse number and write it on the piece marked.. TROUBLES.

Read: Judges Chapter 4 [the full chapter]; and then the last line of Chapter 5. (Miss out verse 11 of Chapter 4)

◆ Let's see if this story has the same 5 stages-

1. SIN: Chapter 4 verse 1 [The people of Israel sinned against the Lord again.]
2. TROUBLES: Chapter 4: verse 1 - 3 [till... 'violence for 20 years']
3. REPENTANCE: Chapter 4 : verse 3 [Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help.] Quite often we, too, come back to the Lord only when we are in trouble! If someone is sick, or we've afraid Of being punished, then we remember God.

4. SAVING: Chapter 4: verse 16 OR Verse 23

5. PEACE: Chapter 5: verse 31 [And there was peace in the land for 40 years.]

ACTIVITY: (10mins)

(Give each student a blank sheet of paper, Ask them to draw a picture of Deborah sitting under the palm tree, speaking to Barak OR any pose that they like, Below the picture ask them to draw a block and write 'DEBORAH WAS,,, They then write as many words as possible to describe his or her behaviour. Help them by making a black board sketch)



(After the children have done this give them a chance to share what they have written. Bring out:

- Deborah was able to do so much good because she was 'in tune' with God. She was always listening for God's voice and trying to see what He was doing, or wanted to do.
- Anyone who really wants to hear God's voice and be his instrument must practice '**listening**'. In every situation we must ask- 'What is God doing ? What is he trying to say to me ...and to others ?'
- A person who does this will be a great instrument of God. God will use that person to help and save many others.

PRAYER: (10mins)

(Make a prayer circle)

Let's try and become quiet and come into God's presence... breathe deeply and be relaxed... now think of your home OR class OR neighbourhood...choose one where there is some kind of trouble...maybe someone is angry with someone else... or there is a problem-sickness, sadness... everyone think of one problem...Now ask God.. 'What do you want to say about this problem?... 'Is there something I can do...or say...?' Spend some time very quietly, listening to God...

(Silence for a few minutes, then if anyone would like to share their prayer experience, let them to so.)

End By Singing:

Song of Good News

Ch: god has spoken ...to his people... Alleluia!

Ant His words are... words of wisdom...Alleluia!

Open your ears, Oh Christian people

Open your ears and hear god's voice.

Open your hearts, O royal priesthood

God has come to you I

YOU WILL NEED: Good News Bibles. (full bible) / Circles cut up for Starter Puzzle, [Instructions given in starter section] / A prize for winners (E g. 5 sweets or 5 pictures) / Blank papers- One per child / Black-board,