LESSON 9

DEBORAH ACTS AS GOD'S VOICE



Aim: **To show the children how Deborah encouraged the Israelites to trust in God for victory over their enemies.**

Scripture Reading: **Judges 4:1–10**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 34:8**
Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

Make up a story or act a little play about two friends called Wani and Juma, who are going to buy a packet of biscuits. Wani, who has the money, promises to share the biscuits with Juma. But Wani then buys the biscuits and eats them all very quickly while Juma is not looking. Wani has broken his promise and Juma is upset.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. The Israelites broke their promise to Joshua. They said they would obey God's commandments, but they turned their hearts from God and followed the wicked ways of the tribes around them. Because of this God allowed them to be conquered by cruel tribes who treated the Israelites very badly (Josh 23:14–16; Judg 4:1–3).
2. Deborah was an Israelite woman who faithfully followed God. She also was a prophetess; that is, someone who taught the people God's will and brought them God's messages. Describe how she sat under a palm tree between two big towns so that people could come to her with their problems (Judg 4:5–6). **Show Picture 9.**
3. One day Deborah sent a message to Barak, an Israelite soldier, to come and see her. The Israelites had turned back to God and asked him to save them from their enemies. Barak was to lead the army, Deborah told him (Judg 4:3, 67). **Show Picture 9.** Barak is the one dressed in green in the picture.
4. But Barak was afraid. The commander of the enemy army, Sisera, had many soldiers and chariots (fast carts on wheels), which Israel did not have. Barak agreed to lead the Israelite soldiers only if Deborah would go with them (Judg 4:7–9).
5. Deborah agreed to go with the army, but warned Barak that the honour of the victory over Sisera would not go to him; people would say that the Lord handed Sisera over to a woman (Judg 4:9–10).

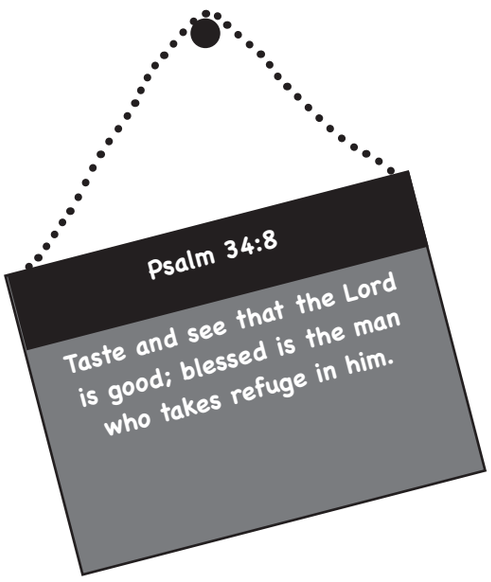
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Our Response to the Story

Barak had an important and difficult job to do, but his faith in God was weak. Deborah encouraged him. It is very important to encourage others in their journey with God. Ask God to give you a Christian friend if you don't have one, so you can help each other stay obedient to God.

Instil the Memory Verse



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