

Bible Discovery

Hold up a Bible. **Today our Bible story is about a woman named Deborah. God told her how to help his people, the Israelites.**

- Get comfy and sit in knee-to-knee circles with Crews.
- ❓ **How do you help someone in your family?** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Sometimes we need patience when we're helping people. God can help us because **God is patient.** *(Thanks, God!)*

God's people didn't always listen to him or do what he said. The Bible tells us they had disobeyed God, and God wasn't very happy. God allowed an army commander named Sisera (SIS-er-uh) to be mean to the Israelites for a long time. It was no fun! They begged God to help them. Do this with me!

- Put your hands on your hips and make a mean face.
- Clasp hands together as if praying.
- ❓ **When have you asked someone to help you when you really needed it?**
- Invite a few responses from the whole group.

In our Bible story, people asked a smart woman named Deborah for help. Deborah loved and obeyed God. God made her a judge. That means she led the Israelites and helped them make right choices. God gave Deborah messages to tell people. Deborah would sit by a big palm tree, and people would come and ask her what to do.

- Have everyone raise their arms like palm tree branches and sway back and forth.
- Have everyone whisper this message to a nearby friend: **"God is patient."** *(Thanks, God!)*

Deborah was very close to God. She saw how miserable God's people were. So God gave her a plan to help them with mean Sisera. One day she called for Barak, an important soldier, to come talk to her.

- Have everyone motion toward themselves and say, "Come over here!"

Barak came to the big palm tree, and Deborah said to him: "Get 10,000 soldiers and lead them up the mountain. I will tell Sisera to take his soldiers down to the river, and you can defeat them and live in peace."

- Show the Bible Story poster.
- Point out Deborah, Barak, and Sisera's soldiers.

Supplies

- Bible
- "Deborah Becomes Israel's Judge" Bible Story poster

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply gather kids in a cozy circle around you. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!

Welcome a few responses. Be sure to summarize what kids say so everyone can hear.



 Read the verses from the Bible. You're showing kids that God's Word is special. And don't worry; we've kept the verses short for young attention spans.

Let's find out what Barak said to Deborah.

 Read aloud Judges 4:8.

Barak would do what Deborah said, but he wanted her to go with him. Let's talk in our Crews.

 **When do you want someone to go with you?** Invite Crew Guides to share first.

 Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Deborah said she would go with Barak. Barak gathered the soldiers and followed Deborah's plan. He marched them up the mountain to wait for Sisera's army.

 Have Connect Crews stand and march in a circle and then sit and pretend to watch for the other soldiers.

They waited for just the right time. They waited patiently, just like **God is patient.** *(Thanks, God!)*

Finally, Sisera's army arrived at the river. Let's find out what happened next.

 Read aloud Judges 4:14-15.

Bye-bye, Sisera! Sisera was scared, and he ran away!

 Have everyone run in place as they look scared and wave goodbye.

Yay! After that, God's people lived in peace and happiness for a while.

God is patient. *(Thanks, God!)* Even though God's people didn't always listen to him or do what he said, God still helped them. He still loved them. He gave wise Deborah a plan to save them from a mean commander.

God's people made mistakes. We make mistakes sometimes, too. But **God is patient.** *(Thanks, God!)* He loved the Israelites and gave them judges like Deborah to help them obey him. And God will always love us, too! He gives us people to help us love God more. Do this with me.

-  Think of someone in your life who leads you and helps you love God.
-  Share that person's name with your Connect Crew.
-  Pray, and thank God for the people who help you.

Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one or more that fit your time frame to support today's Bible discoveries before the closing Goodbye Circle.