

## 10. Deborah (Judges 4:4-16)

He did what was right in the LORD's eyes. (2 Kings 22:2)

# PLAN

### Supplies

**Deep Blue Resources:** One Room Sunday School® Kit: CD-ROM | Leader Guide | Reproducible Kids' Book | Resource Pak

### Additional Deep Blue Resources:

CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible | Deep Blue Bible Storybook | Deep Blue Adventure DVD | Deep Blue Bible Dictionary

**Basic Supplies:** DVD player | Pencils | Crayons | Markers | Scissors | Tape | Glue | Mural paper | Resealable plastic bags

**Gather:** Bananas | Green grapes | Raisins | Animal cookies | Plastic knives

**Explore:** Small notebooks

**Respond:** No additional supplies

**Bless:** Items to use as drums and drumsticks

## Before You Teach

The name Deborah means “bee.” Of all the animal kingdom, the bee ranks among the highest in intelligence. Deborah stands out as among the wisest of all the Old Testament women. God raised up and endowed Deborah with a remarkable personality and gifted her with superior spiritual, mental, and physical powers.

Deborah is one of several females in Scripture distinguished as being a prophet, which means she had the ability to discern the mind and purpose of God and declare it to others. All Israel was under her jurisdiction. The palm tree under which Deborah ruled was a landmark. In honor of her works, it became known as “The Palm of Deborah.” Under her palm, she dispensed righteousness, justice, and mercy.

But Deborah did more than prophesy. She was devoted to the emancipation of God's people, and she awoke in them a determination to free themselves. Deborah sent for Barak, and told him that it was God's will that he should lead the army and deliver the country. Barak was hesitant, but ultimately, he agreed, provided Deborah would go with him. Barak felt he could face their enemies if his ruler was with him, so together they went to meet Sisera, a mighty man of war, who had terrorized Israel for many years. The odds were great against Deborah and Barak. Their army consisted of some 10,000 men. Sisera commanded 100,000 men and had 900 iron chariots. But the Lord threw Sisera and his army into a panic before Barak. Sisera escaped on foot but was eventually killed. Deborah reminded the people that they belonged to God. They gave credit and glory to God, knowing that God had once again delivered them from bondage.

In Deborah's song (chapter 5), she is called “a mother in Israel.” As far as we know, Deborah had never experienced actual motherhood, but she was like a mother to all in Israel. Above all of her remarkable gifts was her trust in God. She served God to the limit of her ability and capacity. After the nation was delivered from bondage, Deborah ruled with fairness, and God's people had rest from war and captivity for forty years.

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# GATHER

### Greeting

*Before class: Display the "Attendance Chart" (Resource Pak—pp. 2 and 23 or p. 3). Two different options for an attendance chart are given in the Resource Pak. Decide which is best for your class.*

- Play the theme song, "All Are Welcome" (CD-ROM), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have each child mark the "Attendance Chart." For the "Community Attendance Chart," the children can write their first names or initials on the building marked #10.

**PRAY:** Dear God, help us learn about how Deborah led in her community; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**ASK:** Who helps you solve problems?

### Which One Is Different? (Puzzle – Preschool)

*Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 10b for each preschool child.*

**SAY:** Deborah the judge held her court outside of the city under a palm tree. Find and circle the palm tree that is different in each of the rows on your picture.

- Allow the children time to work their puzzles.

**ASK:** Have you ever seen a palm tree? Where do judges now hold court?

### Missing Letters (Puzzle – Younger Elementary)

*Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 10c for each younger elementary child.*

**ASK:** Do you know the name of the only woman judge who served in Israel during Bible times?

**SAY:** In each of the seven lines of the alphabet on your paper, one letter is missing. Find the letters that are missing and write them in order in the blanks at the bottom.

- Allow the children time to work their puzzles. Go over the answer.

**ASK:** What do you think judges did during Bible times?

### Solving Problems (Puzzle – Older Elementary)

*Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 10d for each older elementary child.*

**SAY:** Deborah sat under a palm tree and the Israelites would come to her for advice and to settle arguments. Choose one of the scenarios on your paper and go through the steps given to decide how you would settle the problem.

- Allow the older children time to answer their questions.
- Invite the older children to get together and discuss their possible solutions to the problems.

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### Deborah's Palm Tree (Craft)

*Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 10e on card stock for each child.*

**SAY:** Deborah was an exceptional person in the history of the Israelites. She served as a prophet, and she was the only woman judge recorded in Israel's history. Daily she sat under a palm tree outside of the city and listened to the people's problems, gave advice, and settled arguments. The palm tree became known as the Palm of Deborah.

- Give each child a copy of "Deborah's Palm Tree" and share the directions.
  - Color Deborah, the trunk of the tree, and the leaves.
  - Cut out the different pieces.
  - Roll up the trunk of the tree with the colored side showing, and tape the edges together.
  - Glue the ends of the palm leaves inside the top of the trunk.
  - The tree should stand up, and you should see Deborah in the front of the tree.

### Find the Leader (Game)

**ASK:** How did Deborah show she was a leader?

**SAY:** Let's play a game of Find the Leader.

- Have all the players sit in a circle. Choose one player to be "It." Ask "It" to leave the room.
- Choose a second player to be the leader. The leader's job is to create some motions, such as snapping fingers, clapping hands, rubbing your head, and so forth. The other players should follow along as quickly as possible. When all the players are following, the leader switches to another motion. The other players must quickly catch on and follow the leader without staring at the leader.
- Ask "It" to come back into the room and stand in the middle of the circle. "It" tries to figure out who the leader is. If "It" guesses the correct leader, then that leader becomes "It."

**ASK:** What did the players in the circle do? (*followed the leader*) How did "It" guess the leader? (*by watching to see who the players were following*)

### Palm Tree (Snack)

**ASK:** Can you describe a palm tree? What fruit grows on palm trees? (*coconuts, dates*)

**SAY:** Let's make a palm tree to eat.

- Slice a banana in half lengthwise. Lay the two sides with the flat part on a paper plate. Have the two sides touching at the bottom and bending outward at the top.
- Slice some green grapes in half lengthwise and use them to make the palm leaves.
- Place a few raisins at the top of the tree trunk and below the leaves for coconuts.
- Place some animal crackers at the bottom for the sand. Then enjoy eating your palm tree.

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### Transition to Explore – Sacred Conversations

**ASK:** I wonder how it felt to be a prophet and judge in Bible times. How do you think the people felt about Deborah?

## EXPLORE

### Read the Bible Story

- Ask the children to find Judges 4:4-16 in their Bibles. You may have an older child or a leader read the Scripture from the *CEB Kids Bible*. Encourage them to bring their own Bibles and learn how to use them.

**ASK:** What advice did Deborah give Barak? (*Lead the army against Sisera to gain freedom for the Israelites.*) What was Barak's answer to Deborah? (*I'll go, if you go with me.*)

### Dictionary Search

- Allow the children to look up *Deborah*, *judge*, and *prophet* in the *Deep Blue Kids Bible Dictionary*.

### See the Bible Story

**SAY:** The kids are playing a practice soccer game when Victor and Caleb argue about a call. Katherine tells the kids about Deborah, who solved the disagreements for all the people in Israel.

- Watch today's episode from the Adventure DVD.

**ASK:** How did Katherine describe Deborah? (*wise woman, prophet, good listener*) How did Deborah show bravery?

### Interact with the Bible Story

*Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 10a for each child.*

- Give each child a copy of the Bible story.
- Assign parts for the drama: Narrator, Deborah, and Barak.
- Allow the actors to present the drama.

**SAY:** Deborah listened to God and led the Israelites to their freedom.

**ASK:** What was the result of Israel winning the war against Canaan? (*God's people lived in peace for forty years.*)

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### Bible Verse (Activity)

*Before class: Display "Unit 3 Bible Verse and Signs" (Resource Pak—p. 17).*

**SAY:** Our verse for Unit 3 is 2 Kings 22:2. Find the verse in your Bibles and read it together. Keep your Bible open so you can look at the verses surrounding this verse.

- Go over the Sign Language for the Bible verse. Encourage all the children to sign and say the Bible verse with you.

**TIP:** Look on the Deep Blue Kids website, the Free Stuff tab, to see a video demonstrating the signs.

**ASK:** Is the Bible verse found in the Old or New Testament? (*Old*) What book is it in? (*2 Kings*) What chapter? (*22*) What verse? (*2*)

- Say and sign the verse again.

**ASK:** Who did what was right in God's eyes? (*Look in your Bible at the verses surrounding verse 2 to find the answer.*) (*Josiah*)

**SAY:** In a few weeks, we will learn about Josiah and how he followed God.

### Journal (Activity)

*Before class: Gather the small notebooks the children have been journaling in. Have some extras for children who haven't received one yet.*

- Give out the small notebooks and ask the children to write their names on their notebooks if they haven't done it yet.

**SAY:** Open to the next empty page in your notebook. Write or draw what you like about Deborah.

- Give the children time to write or draw in their notebooks.
- Make sure they have written their names on their notebooks. Collect them and keep them in a safe place to use in the following sessions.

### Transition to Respond

**ASK:** How can you be a leader in your community?

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# RESPOND

### Loving God, Loving Neighbor

*Before class: Make a copy of "Meet Our Neighbors" (Reproducible 10f) for each child. Display the "Meet Our Neighbors" poster (Resource Pak—p. 21). Set out the map of Deep Blue Shores, assemble the school and place it on the map, and cut out the storytelling figures (Resource Pak—pp. 5 and 19).*

- Gather the children around the "Meet Our Neighbors" poster.

**SAY:** This month we will meet some new people from the Deep Blue Shores community. Today, we'll meet Rachel, Sophia's best friend.

- Allow a volunteer to read the statements on the poster about Rachel.
- Show the display of the Deep Blue Shores map, the school, and the storytelling figures. If time allows, let the children play with the figures.

**ASK:** Do you have a best friend? What do you like about your best friend?

### Qualities of a Leader (Group Activity)

*Before class: Cut a piece of mural paper long enough for a banner. Find a place in the room where you can stretch the paper out for the children to work on it. Write BE A LEADER on the middle of the banner.*

**SAY:** In this unit, we will learn about some leaders of the community in Bible times. Today we heard about how Deborah led Israel to gain its freedom.

**ASK:** Who are some other leaders in the Bible? Who are some of the leaders in Deep Blue Shores? What are some qualities that leaders have in their lives? (*honesty, good listener, fair and just, not judgmental, dedicated to leading, positive attitude, good at making decisions and solving problems, and so forth*)

- As the children call out leadership qualities, write them on the banner under the title.
- Place the picture of Deborah at the beginning of the banner (Resource Pak—p.9).

**ASK:** Write or draw something you like about Deborah or something that made her a good leader.

- Allow the children time to write or draw in the section about Deborah.
- Invite the children to share what they wrote or drew about Deborah and what it means to them.

### Transition to Bless

- Make copies of "Bible Leaders Cards" (Reproducible 12f). Cut the cards apart and separate them. Put each set of cards in a resealable plastic bag and label the bags for Sessions 10–13. Allow the children to sit at a table where they can see the BE A LEADER banner.

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# BLESS

### Inviting

*Before class: Have the plastic bag of cards showing Deborah ready.*

- Give each child a copy of the Bible Leaders Card showing Deborah.

**SAY:** Each week of this unit, you will receive a Bible Leaders Card with a picture of someone who led the community in Bible times. You can color the picture on your card. On the back of the card, write the leadership qualities that person had that you like. You may take your card home to share with your family and friends. Put your cards together in a resealable plastic bag so you can keep them as a collection.

### Praising

*Before class: Make copies of "Be a Leader" (Reproducible 11f). Punch holes in the copies and place them in notebooks to use as songbooks. Gather some items the children can use as drums and drumsticks.*

**SAY:** Our song this month is "Be a Leader."

- Hand out the songbooks and have the children find the song.
- Allow each child to choose a drum.
- Play this month's song and encourage the children to sing and play their drums.

### Blessing

**SAY:** Each week before you leave, you will receive a blessing. These blessings will show how special you are to God.

- Gather the children in a circle. Go around the circle and touch each child on the shoulder as you offer a blessing.

**SAY:** (Child's name), you can be a leader for God.

**PRAY:** Dear God, we thank you for the examples of the leaders in Bible times. Show us how to lead in our community; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### Loving God/Loving Neighbor at Home

*Before class: Make a copy of Reproducible 10g for each child.*

**SAY:** "Loving God/Loving Neighbor – Faith Family Devotional" is for you and your family to use at home.

**ASK:** Can you share what you have learned about Deborah with your family?

- Send home a copy of Reproducible 10g with each child.

# 10a Deborah – Bible Story

**Narrator:** The Israelites were under the rule of King Jabin of Canaan. The commander of his army was Sisera, and Sisera's army had been very mean to God's people for twenty years. So the people cried out to God for help. At this time, a woman named Deborah helped the Israelites. She was a prophet and a judge. Deborah would sit under a palm tree and listen

to the people's problems. Many came to her for advice or to help settle arguments. She cared for the Israelites, and she came to be known as "a mother in Israel" (Judges 5:7). One day Deborah called for a man named Barak.

**Deborah:** God wants you to lead the army to fight Sisera. God will be with you.

**Barak:** If you'll go with me, I'll go; but if not, I won't go.

**Narrator:** Barak knew Deborah was loved and respected by the Israelites. If she was with him, the men from the other tribes would follow him into battle.

**Deborah:** All right. I'll go with you, but you won't get the praise for winning. A woman will win this fight.

**Narrator:** Deborah went with Barak and the army to Mount Tabor. Sisera heard about this and took his army to the Kishon River.

**Deborah:** Get up! This is the day that the Lord has handed Sisera over to you. God has gone before you.

**Narrator:** Barak took his army down the mountain and met Sisera's army. His army panicked and became confused. Sisera left his chariot and fled on foot. He hid in the tent of a woman named Jael. When Sisera went to sleep, Jael killed him. God helped Barak's army win the victory that day, and a woman was given the praise for defeating Sisera. After this battle, God's people lived in peace for forty years.

(Based on Judges 4:4-16)

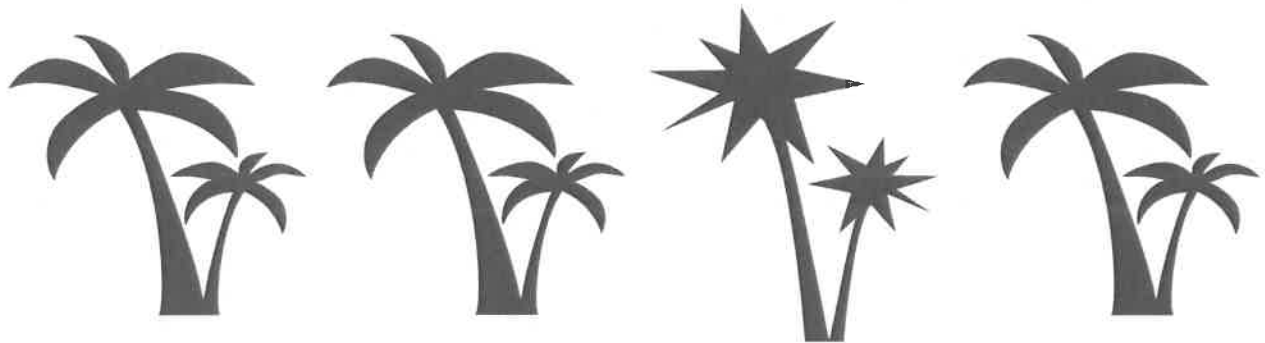
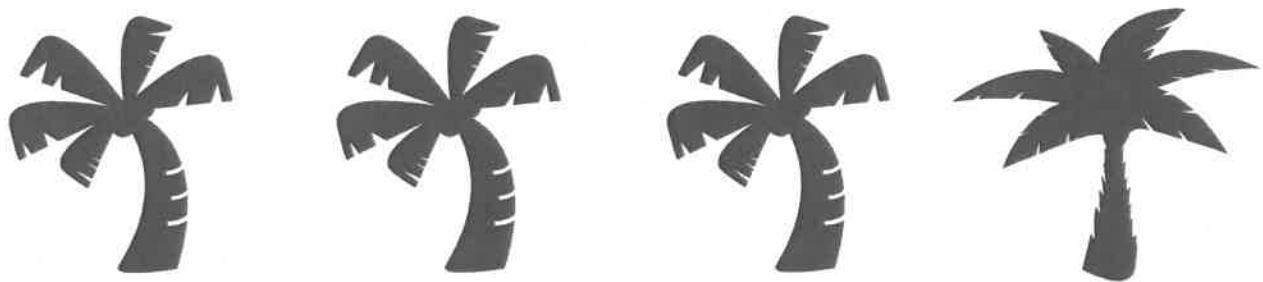
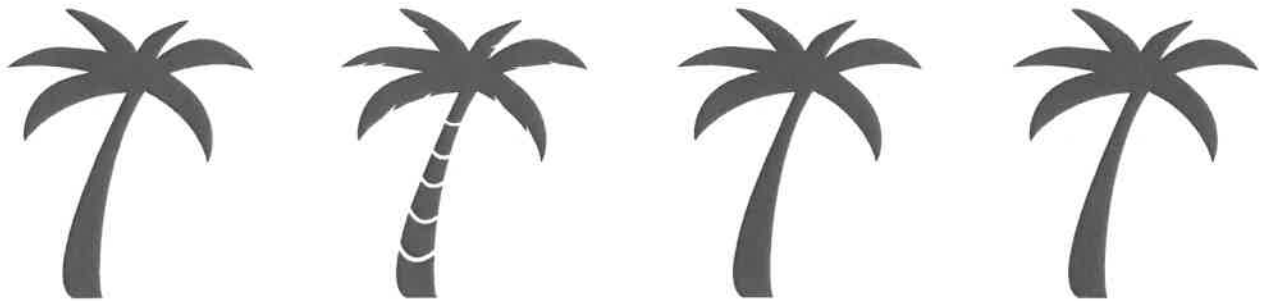




# Which One Is Different? – Puzzle (Preschool)

10b

Deborah the judge held her court outside of the city under a palm tree. Find and circle the palm tree that is different in each of the three lines below.



## 10c Missing Letters – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

In each of the seven lines of the alphabet, one letter is missing. Find the letters that are missing and write them in order in the blanks at the bottom. You will discover the name of the only woman judge who served in Israel during Bible times.

1. A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
2. A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
3. A C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
4. A B C D E F G H I J K L M N P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
5. A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z
6. B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
7. A B C D E F G I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



## Solving Problems – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

10d

Deborah was a judge in Israel. Daily she would sit under a palm tree outside the town and hold court. The Israelites would come to her for advice and to settle arguments. Deborah was a wise woman who loved and obeyed God. She cared for God's people and was loved and respected by the Israelites.

What process do you go through to solve a problem? Instead of reacting to a bad situation, let's talk about steps to use to work through the problem.

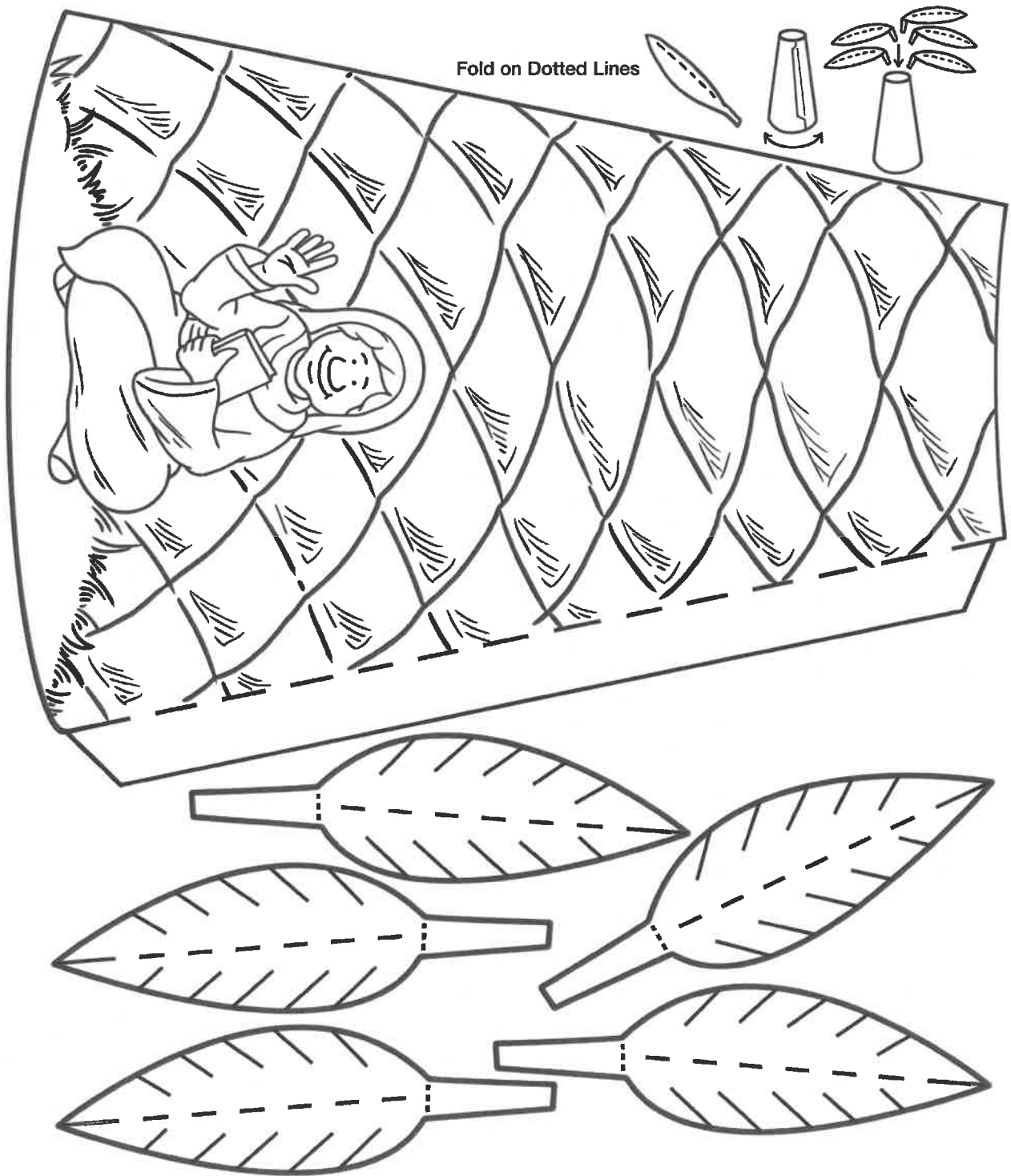
1. Identify the problem. 2. Think about possible solutions. 3. Ask questions about the different solutions: What would happen if I use this solution? Would it be safe? Would it be fair? How would everyone feel? 3. Choose a solution and try it out.

Choose one of the following scenarios and use these steps to decide how you would solve the problem.



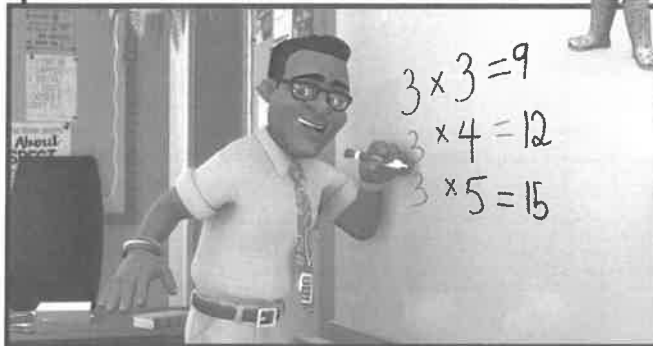
1. You have a new kid in your class at school. He's different in some ways and not very popular. Your friends start teasing him, taking his things, and calling him names. If you stick up for him, your friends will turn on you. You don't want to lose your friends, so ignoring the situation and leaving is your choice. When you try it, one of your friends throws the new kid's backpack to you. What will you do?
2. You get in trouble for something you and your sister did. Your sister is younger than you, but she was the instigator in this situation. Your parents won't listen to your explanation; they just punish you. This makes you very angry at your parents and your sister. You want to get back at your sister when no one else is looking. And you decide to give your parents the silent treatment since they won't listen to you. What will you do?

# 10e Deborah's Palm Tree - Craft



## MEET OUR NEIGHBORS

Hi! I'm Asia, and I have been helping my mom interview our neighbors here in Deep Blue Shores. I'm excited for you to learn all about some of my favorite people.



**Mr. Maxwell is one of our teachers. He teaches us lots of amazing things!**

**How long have you lived in Deep Blue Shores?**

I moved to Deep Blue Shores after I went to college to be a teacher. I have been teaching at our school ever since.

**What do you like to do for fun?**

I like to watch the sports teams from the college I went to when they are on television. Gooooo team!

**What is your favorite joke?**

How did Benjamin Franklin feel when he discovered electricity? He was shocked!



**Rachel is best friends with Kat's sister, Sophia. We love having her around!**

**What do you like to do for fun?**

I like to read and play board games. I also really like having sleepovers with my friend, Sophia.

**Do you have a favorite story or verse from the Torah?**

I love the Shema, some verses from the Book of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy is a book in the Bible too! We say the verse of the Shema in our Hebrew language. In English, Deuteronomy 6:5 says, "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength."

**What is your favorite food?**

I loooooove chocolate ice cream with sprinkles!



**We met Armen on our travels around the world. He is from Armenia. We are excited to have him in Deep Blue Shores as an exchange student!**

**What do you like to do for fun?**

I like to dance! I feel the rhythm with my feet as I dance along to the music.

**What is your favorite thing to learn in school?**

I like to learn about the history of Deep Blue Shores. There are a lot of things Deep Blue Shores and Armenia have in common!

**What is your favorite color?**

My favorite color is red. I like it because it reminds me of the eggs we dye at Easter time in Armenia.



# 10g Loving God/Loving Neighbor – Faith Family Devotional

## Deborah

### Judges 4:4-16

The Israelites had been taken over by King Jabin of Canaan. The commander of his army was Sisera, who had treated the Israelites cruelly. The Israelites cried out to God for help. Deborah, a prophet and judge, became a leader in Israel at that time. She was a wise woman who loved and obeyed God. Daily, she would hold court under a palm tree. Many people came to her for advice or to help settle arguments. Deborah gave Barak, a tribal leader in Israel, advice on how to defeat Sisera and gain freedom for the Israelites. Barak took Deborah's advice, but he insisted she go with him. The battle was won, and the Israelites were freed.

### Verse of the Month

He did what was right in the LORD's eyes. 2 Kings 22:2

## What Do You Think?

Why do you think God chose Deborah to be a judge in Israel?

What makes a good judge?

### Family Activity

Talk about times when you prayed to God for help, and God helped you.

Write notes from your family to the leaders in your community of faith. Thank them for helping you follow God.

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you for hearing us when we cry out for help. Show us how we can help others in our community; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.