**Note:** Consider taking turns reading

Consider reading from different Bible Translations

Consider underlining memory verses in your Bible

Consider having everyone write their memory verses in a journal

Consider keeping track of family members’ prayer requests in a journal

Please adapt these lessons for the needs of your family

**Songs of the Bible**

**Lesson 5 – Song of Deborah**

**Start with Prayer**

**Memory Verse – Psalm 68:1 – May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him.**

**Lesson 5 Scripture: Judges 4 and 5**

**Lesson 5 - Part 1: Background History**

**Scripture: Judges 2:8, 16-19**

**Comment:** Under Joshua the nation of Israel, crossed the Jordan, took Jericho, defeated the nations in Canaan and divided the land. Judges 2:8 records the death of Joshua and then the beginning of the judges to rule. The Israelites were saved only to return to their evil ways, have another judge save them and then live right until the judge died etc.

**Read: Judges 2:16-19 and answer these questions:**

1. Who were raised up after Joshua?

2. What did the judges do?

3. Then what happened?

**Something to talk about:** Our lives although not on such a large scale are often not much unlike that of the Israelites. Discuss how this is so. What are the differences between Jesus as our Savior and the judges that “saved them out of the hands of their enemies”?

**Next Time we are going to learn about Deborah.**

**Family Prayer Requests:**

**Pray:** Dear God**,** thank-you for the sacrifice of Jesus to save us from our sins and for always being there and always the same. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

**Songs of the Bible**

**Lesson 5 – Song of Deborah**

**Start with Prayer**

**Review Memory Verse – Psalm 68:1**

**Lesson 5 Scripture: Judges 4 and 5**

**Lesson 5 - Part 2: About Deborah**

**Scripture: Judges 4:4-10**

**Comment:** In lesson we will meet Deborah, a lady that ruled a nation, in this culture that was very unusual, went to war and wrote the song that we will examine in future lessons. Deborah is not mentioned in the Bible other than right here in Judges.

**Read: Judges 4:4-10 and answer these questions:**

1. How is Deborah described?

2. Where did she hold court?

3. Who did she send for?

4. What was his request?

**Something to talk about:**  Why do you think she held court under a tree? Note location too. What was one of her roles as judge? What did Barak give up because he had asked Deborah to go with him?

**Next time we will look at the reason to sing.**

**Family Prayer Requests:**

**Pray:**  Dear Heavenly Father, we often think we don’t have a role or place in your kingdom but with Deborah, an unlikely person to rule, yet you put her in leadership and made her successful. Help us to find our place in your kingdom and carry out your will. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

**Songs of the Bible**

**Lesson 5: Song of Deborah**

**Start with prayer**

**Review Memory Verse – Psalm 68:1**

**Lesson 5 Scripture: Judges 4 and 5**

**Lesson 5 - Part 3 – Reason to sing**

**Scripture: Judges 4:14-24**

**Comment:** Because of disobedience the Israelites cried out to the Lord so Barak, Deborah with ten thousand men going off to battle against Sisera, the commander of the army of Jabin at Mount Tabor.

**Read: Judges 4:14-24 and answer these questions:**

1. What did Deborah say to Barak?

2. What happened at the advance of Barak and the army?

3. Who left on foot and where did he seek “safe haven”?

4. Where and in what state did Barak find him?

**Something to talk about:** The total demise of King Jabin is not addressed but what was the outcome? List reasons why the Israelites had reason to sing? Where did their help come from?

**Next time we will start looking at the song.**

**Family Prayer Requests:**

**Pray:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank-you for loving us and taking care of us when we cry out to you. Help us to keep from being in situations that need you to “bail us” out from. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

**Songs of the Bible**

**Lesson 5 – Song of Deborah**

**Start with Prayer**

**Review Memory Verse – Psalm 68:4 – Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds – his name is the Lord – and rejoice before him.**

**Lesson 5 Scripture: Judges 4 and 5**

**Lesson 5 - Part 4: Looking Back**

**Scripture: Judges 5:1-9**

**Comment:** We have met Deborah and looked at the background of how the Israelites were faithful, then did evil, then God “sold” them into the hands of their enemies, they cried out, judges rose up saved them only to have the process repeat. This was the story when Deborah rose up took charge and there was victory! Now we are looking at the song that was sung because of this victory.

**Read: Judges 5:1-9 and answer these questions:**

1. Who were the singers?

2. What two things happened to praise the Lord?

3. Who are to hear and listen? Where have we heard those phrases before?

4. What happened on the march from Edom in verses 4 & 5? (Psalm 68:7-9)

**Something to talk about:**  List what was happening or not happening in the country in verses 6, 7a. Why was the country in such a state? Note what was not seen among the Israelites? Why might that be? (Verse 8) What changed all of that? (Verse 7b) Where was Deborah’s heart?

**Next time we will look at righteous acts and being called to action.**

**Family Prayer Requests:**

**Pray:**  Dear Heavenly Father, help us not to be on the roller coaster of life but to learn from our sins and to have our heart be of your heart and live in your will. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

**Songs of the Bible**

**Lesson 5: Song of Deborah**

**Start with prayer**

**Review Memory Verse – Psalm 68:4**

**Lesson 5 Scripture: Judges 4 and 5**

**Lesson 5 - Part 5 – Making Music**

**Scripture: Judges 5:10-12**

**Comment:** In this part of the song all the levels of society are addressed and they repeat what the Lord and the Israelites has done and there is a call that goes out.

**Read: Judges 5: 10-12 and answer these questions:**

1. How are the levels of society described?

2. What are the voices of the singers reciting?

3. What does a call to “wake up” usually plea for?

**Something to talk about:** Note where were the voices of the singers considered. What did the Israelites do between “watering places”? What do we often do between Sundays or times of being “watered” by God’s Word? Who did these righteous acts? What kind of righteous acts have been done for us by God?

**Next time we will look at who helped the cause and who didn’t.**

**Family Prayer Requests:**

**Pray:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank-you for your righteous acts for the Israelites of old and for us today. Help us to wake up and spring to action for your name sake. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

**Songs of the Bible**

**Lesson 5 – Song of Deborah**

**Start with Prayer**

**Review Memory Verse – Psalm 68:4**

**Lesson 5 Scripture: Judges 4 and 5**

**Lesson 5 - Part 6: Who Came Down**

**Scripture: Judges 5:13-18**

**Comment:** We have seen how the Israelites had chosen to serve other gods, their life was more or less non-existent, and there was a call to Deborah the judge at the time to do something. Deborah and Barak did just that but not alone, this next section of the song is a roll call of the tribes and their contribution to the battle.

**Read: Judges 5:13-18 and answer these questions:**

1. Who came down to Deborah?

2. What was done in the districts of Reuben?

3. What did the people of Zebulun do?

**Something to talk about:**  Make a list of the tribes – note what each tribe contributed or did not contribute. What did the tribe of Reuben actually do? How are we like that sometimes? Why is there no mention of the Levites?

**Next time we will look at the battle**

**Family Prayer Requests:**

**Pray:**  Dear Heavenly Father, help us not to just search our hearts but actually to be moved into action. Thank-you for this example of your people joining together for a common cause and achieving the victory through your mighty hand. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

**Songs of the Bible**

**Lesson 5: Song of Deborah**

**Start with prayer**

**Review Memory Verse – Psalm 68:4**

**Lesson 5 Scripture: Judges 4 and 5**

**Lesson 5 - Part 7 – The Kings, the River and the Curse**

**Scripture: Judges 5:19-23**

**Comment:** This section talks about the kings of Canaan, how the river Kishon aided in the victory and how a town was cursed for not helping out.

**Read: Judges 5:19-23 and answer these questions:**

1. What did the kings of Canaan do? Was there a reward for their efforts?
2. How is the power of God from heaven for Israel described?
3. How did the river Kishon help the battle?
4. How is the retreat from the river described?

**Something to talk about:** Not much is said about Meroz other than here apparently they were close by and could have helped – Did the Lord need their help? By not coming out to fight what message did they send? How do we show whose side we are on?

**Next time we will look at a tribute to Jael.**

**Family Prayer Requests:**

**Pray:** Dear Heavenly Father, help us to stand on your side Lord, to show allegiance to you. Thank-you for strength for our souls to march on and be strong. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

**Songs of the Bible**

**Lesson 5 – Song of Deborah**

**Start with Prayer**

**Review Memory Verse – Psalm 68:4**

**Lesson 5 Scripture: Judges 4 and 5**

**Lesson 5 - Part 8: Jael**

**Scripture: Judges 5:24-27**

**Comment:** There is a little speculation here that Jael might have been an Israelite married to Heber the Kenite but no matter she did a murderous act that killed Sisera, the commander of the enemy’s army. The actual event was probably somewhere between the peaceful scene of the story and the poetic drama of the song.

**Read: Judges 5:24-27 and answer these questions:**

1. Where did Jael dwell?

2. What was the advantage of giving milk instead of water?

3. What did she actually do? (See Judges 4:21)

**Something to talk about:** What did Sisera expect from Jael? Have you ever been disappointed in the expectations of someone? Discuss how an army commander would prefer to have the account of his death remembered in contrast to Sisera’s death.

**Next time we will look at another woman in Sisera’s life**

**Family Prayer Requests:**

**Pray:**  Dear Heavenly Father, although this is not an act that should be made glorious, it did serve a purpose to remove a very important person in the enemy’s army. Although not in murderous acts, help us to see ways to be of service in your kingdom. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

**Songs of the Bible**

**Lesson 5: Song of Deborah**

**Start with prayer**

**Review Memory Verse – Psalm 68:4**

**Lesson 5 Scripture: Judges 4 and 5**

**Lesson 5 - Part 9 – Sisera’s Mother**

**Scripture: Judges 5:28-30**

**Comment:** The details, although through the imagination of Deborah how the mother of Sisera was waiting, peering through the window waiting for her son to return, she also was quite selfish about wondering about the spoils of war.

**Read: Judges 5:28-30 and answer these questions:**

1. What were the questions Sisera’s mother asked?

2. Who answered her?

3. List the possible spoils.

**Something to talk about:** How did Deborah “mother of Israel” and the mother of Sisera differ? Analyze yourself – Who are you most like?

**Next time we will look at the conclusion of the song.**

**Family Prayer Requests:**

**Pray:** Dear Heavenly Father, help me to be the person you want me to be – whether the one out in front of the battle or the prayer warrior in the back ground, either way help me not to expect “plunder”, payment for my part in your kingdom. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

**Songs of the Bible**

**Lesson 5 – Song of Deborah**

**Start with Prayer**

**Review Memory Verse – Psalm 68:4**

**Lesson 5 Scripture: Judges 4 and 5**

**Lesson 5 - Part 10: The Closing Prayer**

**Scripture: Judges 5:31**

**Comment:** We have seen the fall of Israel, sold into the hands of Jabin the Canaan king and the commander Sisera, the rise of Deborah as a judge in Israel, the alliance of Deborah and Barak, leading the troops into battle from various tribes of Israel, the raging river Kishon that swept the enemy away. Sisera escaped only to go to a tent of someone he trusted and be killed in his sleep – a demeaning death for an army commander - Deborah and Barak sing of this telling of victory with the help of God, the tribes of Israel, Jael and now the prayer that the successes in battle will continue.

**Read: Judges 5:31 and answer these questions:**

1. What is the prayer for Israel’s enemies?

2. What is the comparison of those you love God?

3. How long was the peace?

**Something to talk about:**  List some ways that the idea of the sun rising on a new day and the sun rising on the future of Israel would be alike and different. Note the last line – What is the result of the victory? Is it lasting?

**Next time we will start looking at David’s Song of Praise.**

**Family Prayer Requests:**

**Pray:**  Dear Heavenly Father, we all have enemies of different kinds, some within and some without, thank-you for victories over these enemies. May each new sunrise give us strength and courage to face our foes and with your return our foes will be vanquished forever – Praise your Holy Name! In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.