

Jr Church/Kids Club Lesson for 5/03 Week #10

Jael Drives a Tent Peg Through an Enemy's Head

Key Point: We know God will help us.

God loves us and is always ready to help us. In Judges 4, God helped his people in a surprising- **and gross**- way. God's people did evil in his sight, so he let the Canaanites conquer them. Cross your wrists as if you are captive. The commander of the Canaanite army was named Sisera, and he treated God's people badly for 20 years. Maybe he marched them around in the hot sun. Maybe he made them work long and hard. God's people cried out for help. God heard his people. God told his prophet Deborah, who was a judge in Israel at the time, that he would give his people victory over Sisera. So Deborah recruited a commander named Barak, and she went with him and his army into battle against Sisera. God threw Sisera and all his chariots and warriors into a panic, and the Israelites killed all of Sisera's warriors. But Sisera escaped on foot. Here comes the gross part. Let's read it right from the Bible from *Judges 4: 17-21* *"But Sisera himself ran away. He came to the tent where Jael lived. She was the wife of Heber, one of the Kenite family groups. Heber's family was at peace with Jabin king of Hazor. "*¹⁸*Jael went out to meet Sisera. She said to him, "Come into my tent, master! Come in. Don't be afraid." So Sisera went into Jael's tent, and she covered him with a rug.*

¹⁹*Sisera said to Jael, "I am thirsty. Please give me some water to drink." So she opened a leather bag in which she kept milk and gave him a drink. Then she covered him up.*²⁰*Then Sisera said to Jael, "Go stand at the entrance to the tent. If anyone comes and asks you, 'Is anyone here?' say, 'No.'"*

²¹*But Jael, the wife of Heber, took a tent peg and a hammer. She quietly went to Sisera. Since he was very tired, he was sleeping. She hammered the tent peg through the side of Sisera's head and into the ground! And so Sisera died.*

From that day on, Israel got stronger and stronger, and they finally defeated their enemies and were free. God helped his people in a surprising way! We know God will help us in unexpected ways too. You can read the whole story from the Bible passage below, if you'd like.

Bible Passage: Judges 4:1-20:46 International Children's Bible (ICB)

4 After Ehud died, the people of Israel again did what the Lord said was wrong. ²So he let Jabin, a king of Canaan, defeat Israel. Jabin ruled in the city of Hazor. Sisera was the commander of Jabin's army. Sisera lived in Harosheth Haggoyim. ³He had 900 iron chariots and was very cruel to the people of Israel for 20 years. So they cried to the Lord for help.

⁴There was a prophetess named Deborah. She was the wife of Lappidoth. She was judge of Israel at that time. ⁵Deborah would sit under the Palm Tree of Deborah. This was between the cities of Ramah and Bethel, in the mountains of Ephraim. And the people of Israel would come to her to settle their arguments.

⁶Deborah sent a message to a man named Barak. He was the son of Abinoam. Barak lived in the city of Kedesh, which is in the area of Naphtali. Deborah said to Barak, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go and gather 10,000 men of Naphtali and Zebulun. Lead them to Mount Tabor. ⁷I will make Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, come to you. Sisera, his chariots and his army will meet you at the Kishon River. I will help you to defeat Sisera there.'"

⁸Then Barak said to Deborah, "I will go if you will go with me. But if you will not go with me, I won't go."

⁹"Of course I will go with you," Deborah answered. "But you will not get credit for the victory. The Lord will let a woman defeat Sisera." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh. ¹⁰At Kedesh, Barak called the people of Zebulun and Naphtali together. From them, he gathered 10,000 men to follow him. Deborah went with Barak also.

¹¹Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenite people. (The Kenites were descendants of Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law.) Heber had put up his tent by the great tree in Zaananim. This is near Kedesh.

¹²Then Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor. ¹³So Sisera gathered his 900 iron chariots and all the men with him. They went from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River.

¹⁴Then Deborah said to Barak, "Get up! Today is the day the Lord will help you defeat Sisera. You know the Lord has already cleared the way for you." So Barak led 10,000 men down from Mount Tabor. ¹⁵He and his men attacked Sisera and his men. During the battle the Lord confused Sisera and his army and chariots. So Barak and his men used their swords to defeat Sisera's army. But Sisera left his chariot and ran away on foot. ¹⁶Barak and his men chased Sisera's chariots and army to Harosheth Haggoyim. They used their swords to kill all of Sisera's men. Not one of them was left alive.

¹⁷But Sisera himself ran away. He came to the tent where Jael lived. She was the wife of Heber, one of the Kenite family groups. Heber's family was at peace with Jabin king of Hazor. ¹⁸Jael went out to meet Sisera. She said to him, "Come into my tent, master! Come in. Don't be afraid." So Sisera went into Jael's tent, and she covered him with a rug.

¹⁹Sisera said to Jael, "I am thirsty. Please give me some water to drink." So she opened a leather bag in which she kept milk and gave him a drink. Then she covered him up.

²⁰Then Sisera said to Jael, "Go stand at the entrance to the tent. If anyone comes and asks you, 'Is anyone here?' say, 'No.'"

²¹But Jael, the wife of Heber, took a tent peg and a hammer. She quietly went to Sisera. Since he was very tired, he was sleeping. She hammered the tent peg through the side of Sisera's head and into the ground! And so Sisera died.

²²Then Barak came by Jael's tent, chasing Sisera. Jael went out to meet him and said, "Come. I will show you the man you are looking for." So Barak entered her tent. There Sisera lay dead, with the tent peg in his head.

²³On that day God defeated Jabin king of Canaan in the sight of Israel.

²⁴Israel became stronger and stronger against Jabin king of Canaan. Finally, they destroyed him.

Questions:

What are some times when you need God's help?

What are some things you do well, and how can you see God helping you do those things?

Play with ideas:

(Supplies: a deck of playing cards, or a piece of paper and scissors.)

A big part of what happened in our story happened in a tent. Let's make some tents of our own. Find a deck of playing cards, or grab a piece of paper and some scissors to cut the sheet into 8 equal sections. Now that you have some building supplies, see how many tents you can make without touching them or using any tape. Every time you get a tent to stand up on its own, tell about a time when God helped you.

Keep playing with ideas:

(Barbie dolls or other characters/stuffed animals)

If you are feeling really creative and have some Barbie and Ken dolls around your house, reenact this story after you watch the YouTube videos below!

Let's watch a video on YouTube to see what a guy with a beard has to say about this story. Oh, and he thinks today is Monday, but that's okay!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0pMy9EKPYo>

Lets' Sing and move with this YouTube video about how powerful God is.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1MDCwirYoQ&list=PLzSwkR28Y857krP9PVUByXDxcrcdbNKano&index=3>

Let's Pray

God, sometimes we take credit for things you really did. But just as the tents we played with wouldn't have been able to stand up on their own without our help setting them up, we always need your help. Our Bible story today, Lord, was gross, but it showed us that you were the one who helped your people win. God, help us remember that you will always help us too, even if it is not in such a gross way. Help us to remember to thank you and praise you for the ways you help us, Lord. We love you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Fairfield Community School Students: Missing Kids 4 Christ Bible Classes at school? You can find your lessons on YouTube. Check them out at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kS1v154C83A&list=PLYxKO5HxDR7z79sBDJzYs6xak7B2dpeht&index=2&t=0s>