



BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 19

JUDGES CYCLE + DEBORAH (JUDGES 4)

Scripture: Judges 4:1-9

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Colored pencils, brads, print outs, toilet paper rolls, green construction paper

Ask:

- Who can tell me what we learned about last week?
- When the walls of Jericho fell, the Israelites began to take the Promised Land. But it wasn't easy. There were a lot of enemies. Today, we're going to begin talking about the work the Israelites had to do to get their land.
- Can anyone tell me what a judge is now?
- Does anyone know what a Judge was in the Bible? (They did make rulings, but often led and guided the people.)

Explain:

The Israelites were in the land, but they still didn't always follow God. They would follow him for a while, but then they would start to go their own way. People have described this as the cycle of Judges. People worship God, then they stray and begin to worship false idols. Then God allows them to become oppressed by an enemy people. Then they cry out to God, and he sends them a Judge. The judge delivers them, and they worship God again. But then the cycle starts all over.

Today, we're going to learn about Deborah the Judge.

Read: Judges 4:1-9

Activity:

If you have tree branches or something at your disposal, you can act this out with the kids. I used fake flowers. Have a helper hold the tree/flower/greenery over your head while you "sit under the tree." Have the kids come up with questions to ask you.

Craft:

Have the kids complete the Judges Cycle craft.

Color the pictures on the circle and the cover. Cut out the slice of the cover and pin it with a brad. Turn the wheel and see the cycle of Judges.

Craft:

If you have time for another craft, you can use toilet paper rolls and printouts of the palm tree below (or construction paper) to make a palm tree that Deborah sat under. Cut out the leaves, cut slits in the toilet paper roll and insert the leaves.

Explain:

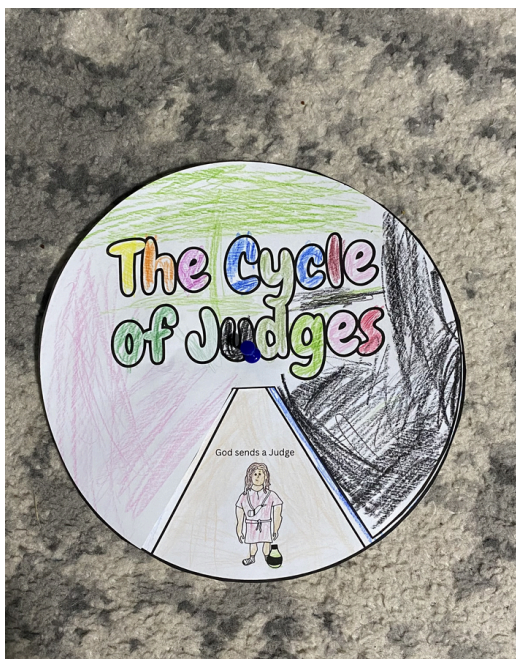
Barak did go to war, but the honor of the victory was given to a woman named Jael. Deborah was a good judge for Israel while she lived, but, unfortunately, Israel turned away to worship other gods and were given over to their enemies the Midianites. We'll pick up there next week.

Comic Book Bibles:

Have the kids draw the story of Deborah or the cycle of Judges. Save it to add to their Comic Book Bibles.

Memorize: Judges 5:3

Close in Prayer



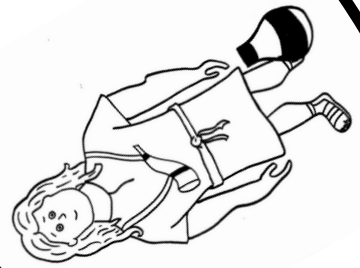
The Cycle of Judges

CUT OUT

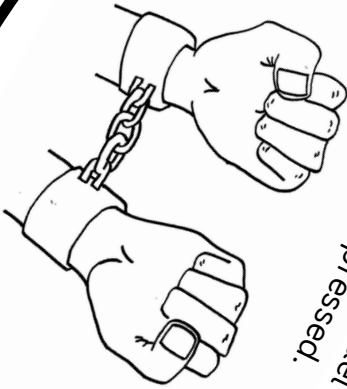
A large circle with a thick black outline. Inside the circle, the text "The Cycle of Judges" is written in a large, bubbly, outlined font. Below the text, there is a trapezoidal shape with a thick black outline, pointing downwards. Inside this trapezoid, the words "CUT OUT" are written in a simple, sans-serif font.



Israel cries out to
God.



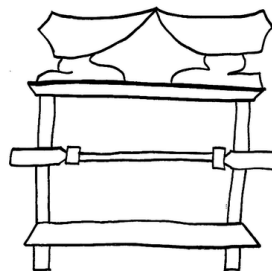
God sends a Judge.



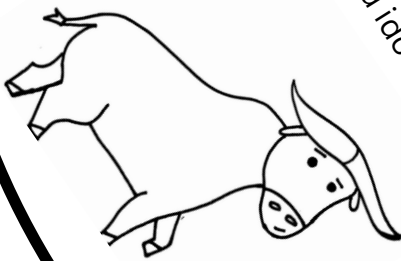
God allows Israel to
be oppressed.



Israel is delivered.



Israel worships God.



Israel falls into sin
and idolatry.

