



Date: _____
Series: God is Our Rescuer
Fall Year 2, Lesson 19

Whom Will God Choose to Deliver?

Take Home Point: *God chooses you to do his special work. Don't miss your chance!

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Judges 4 Deborah leads Israel.

Key Verse: John 15:16a, "You didn't choose me, but I chose you. I have appointed you to go, to produce fruit that will last ..."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Deborah leading Israel as a judge and prophetess.
- God chooses us through faith in Christ, so we might participate in his special rescue to people we know.

We will help kids feel:

- Awed by God's design to sometimes choose unlikely people to do great things for him.
- Convicted because "God chooses and we do." We don't want to miss our chance.

We will help kids do:

- Identify ways that we choose people to do special things with us.
- Identify ways that God might be choosing us to do special things with him.
- Become more intentional in sharing our faith in Jesus with others.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids play a game in which they are chosen based on different criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • masking tape • penny candy (one piece per child)
Large Group 	4 8-9 9-14 15	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “I Choose the Boys” – Gordy thinks that in every contest, boys should be chosen over girls.</p> <p>Dramatic Presentation: “God Chooses Deborah” – The Bible event from Judges 4 is presented in narration and in a video interview. God chose the prophetess Deborah to encourage the army of Barak to fight and a woman, Jael, to kill the mighty warrior Sisera.</p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “I Choose the Boys” – Gordy learns that God chose many women in the Bible for his special assignments including Mary to be the mother of our Savior. We don’t want to miss our chance when God chooses us for his special work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • Old Testament costumes for two boy actors and two girl actors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ three costume headpieces ○ army helmet ○ shield ○ beard ○ two swords • mallet or hammer • wood to hit mallet on • tent or sheet over a line to look like a tent • actors’ name tags with line on back (p. 16-17)
Small Group Application 	4-7	Kids choose ways they can respond in different scenarios to show “fruit” ...that they are chosen by God to do something special.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • name stickers cut into the shape of stars • markers

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



***Purpose: Get pointed in the right direction!** Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

Lay a four-foot strip of masking tape down the center of your area.

Kids, let's play a game about about choosing.

Notice something about everyone else on the other side of the line. Choose one thing that many of them might have in common, like wearing brown shoes.

All the people with brown shoes come over to my side of the line.

The goal of the game is to leave only one person on the other side of the line. For example:

Now all of you that have on Nike shoes today come over by me.

Keep doing this until only one person is left on the other side of the line.

Well, it looks like you were the one person not chosen. In this game, if you are the last person left, you are actually chosen to receive a piece of candy. You are now chosen to be "it" for the next round of the game.

Repeat the game and end with a new person as the last chosen. This time use a category such as the kind of shirt people are wearing. Explain to the person choosing that he is trying to leave one person who will be chosen to receive candy and be "it" for the next game. Other categories include:

- The state children were born in.
- Their favorite sport.
- The schools they attend.
- Their favorite subject in school.
- Their favorite color.

Add or change the category for each round. After ten minutes of the game, give candy to all children who didn't receive any and ask the following questions.

How does it feel when you are chosen to do something special?

Can anyone tell me something you were chosen for that really meant a lot to you?

God does not want to leave anyone out. He chooses in a different way. He wants everyone to be on his side. Today, we are going to find out what happened to the prophetess Deborah. God chose her for a special job. She was to be a judge and a leader of the Israelites. God chose her to help rescue his people. **God also chooses you to do his special work. Don't miss your chance!*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



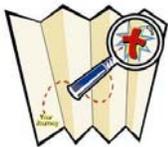
Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: "I Choose the Boys" – Gordy thinks that in every contest, boys should be chosen over girls.

Dramatic Presentation: "God Chooses Deborah" – The Bible event from Judges 4 is presented in narration and in a video interview. God chose the prophetess Deborah to encourage the army of Barak to fight and a woman, Jael, to kill the mighty warrior Sisera.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "I Choose the Boys" – Gordy learns that God chose many women in the Bible for his special assignments including Mary to be the mother of our Savior. We don't want to miss our chance when God chooses us for his special work.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Judges 4 in their Bibles.

Why did the evil King Jabin rule over the Israelites for 20 years?
(Judges 4:1-2. Because the people of Israel did what was evil in God's sight.)

Who was Deborah, and what did she do? (*Judges 4:4-5. Deborah was a prophetess; she sat under a tree and helped people make legal decisions.*)

Why did God choose Deborah to help rescue the Israelites? (*She trusted God and listened to him.*)

Who was Barak, and why was he chosen to help? (*Judges 4:6-7. He was a military leader God had chosen to defeat Sisera.*)

How was the battle won? (*Judges 4:15-16. The Lord threw Sisera's army into a panic.*)

How was Sisera killed? (*Judges 4:17-22. Sisera ran to the tent of the woman, Jael, who killed him while he slept.*)

The details of this verse; Judges 4:17-22, might be a bit extreme for small children. Fourth grade boys, though, would probably be fascinated with the details.

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What was so unusual about God choosing Jael to kill Sisera? (*She was a woman with no military training, yet she killed the commander of a powerful army.*)

Think about the people God used in today's Bible event: Deborah, Barak, and Jael. How do you think each one felt to be used in God's plan?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

God did another surprising thing to rescue people today, and he used a woman to do it. What was it? (*He sent Jesus, born from Mary, to be our Savior.*)

It is remarkable that God, himself, would become a man and be born into this world. He came into this world through a woman named Mary.

Jesus had another big surprise in rescuing his people. Jesus *died* so we would have a victory. He took our sins on himself. But he rose again and is now alive. He wants to be with people who trust him to be their rescuer. Do you trust him?

If we trust Jesus to be our Rescuer, then God will choose us also to do something special for him.

Read John 15:16:

“You didn’t choose me, but I chose you. I have appointed you to go, to produce fruit that will last ...”

God has chosen us to bear fruit for him. “Fruit” is evidence, or proof, we show when we are God’s chosen people.

Application Activity:

Have kids repeat the phrase, **“Choose to do.”** Then say:

God chose us to be his children, and he wants us to share this wonderful news with other people. We can choose to be something special for him when we obey what he wants us to do. In a way, we are bringing God’s victory in our lives into the lives of other people. Isn’t it surprising that God would choose even kids to do special things for him? Let’s explore what some of those might be.

Give each child a name sticker in the shape of a star. On this star have them write, “Choose To Do,” or give them a label with the phrase on it. When the children give an example of what they would “choose to do” in the following situations, they can wear the sticker badge on their shirts. Offer the following scenarios, one at a time, and let kids discuss what they would do.

Situations:

- 1. Jake is a fourth grader and a bully on the playground. He is always pushing down other people and cutting in line. He wants everyone to be afraid of him. Jake pushes down a second-grader, and you are standing right there. What do you choose to do about it?**
- 2. During lunchtime at school, three girls are whispering among themselves. They are talking about Sally, who is a girl that used to be their friend. Now they have decided that Sally won’t be their friend. Sally is sitting at the same table and hears them. It hurts her very much. You are sitting at that table, too. What do you choose to do?**
- 3. Eric is your friend who always calls himself stupid. He thinks he can’t do anything well. Sometimes he doesn’t even try. When you ask him if he wants to play kickball with everyone, he says no. He says he is a loser, and he doesn’t want to be picked last. What do you choose to do?**
- 4. Your grandma is very sick, and your mom is worried. She comes back from the hospital, and she has been crying. She is worried about Grandma dying. Can you help? What do you choose to do?**

Point out:

God has chosen you by giving you Jesus as your Savior. When you receive him as Savior, you can do special things for God. This is fruit that will last.

Restate the take home point: ****God chooses you to do his special work. Don't miss your chance!***

Closing Prayer:

Pray for specific things we can choose to do because God has chosen us to do something special for him. Thank him for sending Jesus as our Savior.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

I Choose the Boys Puppet Presentation

Presenter: Boys and girls, today we are talking about choosing. Who do you choose, who do I choose, and who does God choose? Should we choose to call Gordy?

Kids chant, "Gor-dy! Gor-dy! Gor-dy!"

Gordy: Hi, kids. Did I hear you talking about choosing me?

Presenter: That's right, Gordy. We chose you today to be with us because you are usually a lot of fun.

Gordy: And smart.

Presenter: Well, I don't know.

Gordy: And good-looking.

Presenter: Oh, Gordy.

Gordy: And strong!

Presenter: Now wait a minute. I'm not sure those are the reasons we chose you.

Gordy: Well, I know the reason to choose someone.

Presenter: You mean, like for a game?

Gordy: Yeah. Anytime I choose someone for a game, I always choose the boys.

Presenter: The boys?

Gordy: The boys instead of the girls. They are better at games.

Presenter: I don't know. Kids, what do you say? Give time for response. **Some of the girls disagree with that.**

Gordy: But it's true. Boys are always the best choice.

Presenter: Gordy, you will be surprised today to find out that when it was time to lead the Israelites to war, the commander of the army was a boy.

Gordy: Of course, he was. And strong, too.

Presenter: Well, maybe he was strong, too, but he was afraid unless he had a girl by the name of Deborah with him to be the leader.

Gordy: What?!

Presenter: It's true. God chose Deborah, a girl, to encourage the people to victory.

Gordy: What a surprise!

Presenter: God chooses lots of surprising people, like you and me, to do special things for him.

Gordy: Well, I can understand how he could choose me, but you? (Points at the presenter.) Wow, that would be a surprise!

Presenter: Gordy, God does surprising things and wants to choose all of us to do something special for him. We will hear about that today when we discover how Deborah loved the Israelites.

Gordy: Okay, let's check it out.

God Chooses Deborah

Audience Participation Drama

In the following dramatic presentation the Bible event is divided into four sections. Each section has a brief interview with one of the Bible characters played by kids in the audience. The children do not need to rehearse their lines ahead of time, but must be the kind of children who feel comfortable acting in front of an audience and speaking onstage. All four children should be brought up at the beginning of the presentation, costumed and seated in chairs. It's best to have an assistant costume the children and prepare them while the presenter speaks. As their character is announced, the child will be called upon one at a time. Each child will wear a sign around their necks, so that the kids can remember who they are.

The Appendix page, "What to Say...", can be used to help the children learn the one line they will repeat. The cue for them to speak their line will be when the presenter either points to them or places a hand on their shoulder. The audience participates, as well.

NOTE: These children can be selected during Small Group Warm-Up and coached in how to dramatically play their role.

- Characters:
1. Sisera, captain of King Jabin's army
Props: Army helmet, beard, sword and shield
 2. Deborah, judge and prophetess of Israel
Props: Headpiece
 3. Barak, soldier and leader in the Israelite army
Props: Headpiece and sword
 4. Jael, woman who kills Sisera
Props: Hammer or mallet, headpiece

Optional Props: Curtain or tent that Jael could walk behind, object that can be hit with a mallet or hammer

Segment 1: God's people are dominated.

Narrator: *From Judges, chapter 4. Even though God had given the Israelites tremendous victories, the Israelites noticed the idols or gods of the land they were to conquer. Soon they were following after these idols. How dumb. Let me hear you say it.*

Kids respond: **How dumb.**

Because of this, the Lord stopped helping the Israelites. There was a king of the Canaanites named King Jabin who beat them in battle. He ruled over Israel for 20 years. He made life unbearable for them. The Israelites did not know what to do.

Kids pretend you are Israelites and anytime I point to you, I want you to repeat this phrase. Repeat it after me and use your scaredy voice. "Oh, no. Whatever will we do?"

Kids respond: **Oh, no. Whatever will we do?**

That is how they felt under the rule of wicked King Jabin. How did King Jabin control them? He used this dude, right here. I introduce to you, Sisera.

Bring Sisera forward from his chair.

Sisera was his captain. He was more cruel than King Jabin. What do you have to say for yourself, Sisera?

Cue child playing Sisera to speak.

Sisera: I'm one mean dude.

Audience, Israelites, let me hear you. Points to audience.

Kids respond: **Oh, no. Whatever will we do?**

King Jabin thought he was so tough because he had 900 chariots made of iron and pulled by horses. Points to audience.

Kids respond: **Oh, no. Whatever will we do?**

His soldiers could shoot arrows or throw spears from these chariots. The Israelites were so afraid of the iron chariots they did not know what to do. They let the King of Canaan and his captain, Sisera, rule over them.

Cue Sisera to speak.

Sisera: I'm one mean dude.

Narrator points to audience.

Kids respond: **Oh, no. Whatever will we do?**

King Jabin let Sisera raid the Israelites and made the Israelites do whatever the King wanted. Cue Sisera.

Sisera: I'm one mean dude.

But worst of all, he thought his false gods, the gods of the Canaanites, the Baals and Asherahs (*Judges 3:7.*) were stronger than the God of the Israelites. Point to the audience.

Kids respond: **Oh, no. Whatever will we do?**

Segment 2: *Deborah, the Prophetess*

Narrator: There was a woman in Israel named Deborah.

Bring Deborah forward from her chair and introduce her.

She heard the people of Israel saying... Point to the audience.

Kids respond: **Oh, no. Whatever will we do?**

This is what Deborah said.

Cue Deborah.

Deborah: Chill out. God is with you!

She was brave because she worshipped the true God. She knew God was stronger than all the other armies. Sometimes God even told her things that would happen in the future. So she was known as a prophetess and this is what she said. Cue Deborah.

Deborah: Chill out. God is with you!

One day she sent for Barak, a brave soldier, whose name meant “thunderbolt.”

Bring Barak forward from his chair and have him stand next to Deborah.

Barak was known for his bravery.

Deborah told him, “The Lord wants you to take 10,000 men and fight Sisera near Mount Tabor. Sisera will come after you with his army and chariots. The Lord will give you a victory.”

But Barak knew about how mean Sisera was. He knew about the 900 chariots. He knew about how their army always won. So he was SCARED! He said... Cue Barak.

Barak : Oh, no. Whatever will we do?

Deborah told him to be brave. Cue Deborah.

Deborah: Chill out. God is with you!

Barak said, “I can be brave but only if you will go with me.”

“I will go with you,” Deborah said, “but you will not get the honor of victory over Sisera. The victory over Sisera will be taken by a woman.”

Segment 3: *The Battle*

Narrator: Deborah went marching with Barak and 10,000 men to Mount Tabor. I think I can hear them marching now. Kids, lets hear you march.

Kids stomp their feet.

Sisera was eager for the battle.

Cue Sisera.

Sisera: *I'm one mean dude.*

He felt he could destroy Israel by finally destroying their large army. Sisera's army gathered in the valley. They rolled out their hundreds of iron chariots. Their soldiers were fierce. And ALL of them were mean!

Barak and his men stopped marching (kids stop marching) and the soldiers watched from the side of the mountain. It must have been a fearful sight. Then Deborah told Barak.. Cue Deborah.

Deborah: *Chill out. God is with you!*

"Go. This day the Lord will go in front of you and give you victory." Barak and his 10,000 men came running down from the mountain. Kids, can I hear them running now?

Have the kids pound their feet.

And they cheered. Kids can I hear you cheer? Say, YEAY!

Kids respond: **Yeay!**

They said "God is with us!" Kids, let me hear you repeat it.

Kids respond: **God is with us!**

The Lord caused great fears to seize Sisera's army. His whole army panicked and turned to run. As they ran, they were defeated. Have kids stop running in place.

But there was one man who was really afraid. It was Sisera. He wasn't so mean now. He jumped out of his chariot and ran away as fast as he could. He looked for a place to hide. He came to a tent near

the valley, so he ran to hide there. And this is what he said “Oh, no. Whatever will I do?”

Segment 4: *Sisera is defeated.*

Narrator: Sisera ran to the tent of a lady named Jael.

Bring Jael forward from her chair and introduce her.

Sisera thought she would help him because his king was at peace with Jael’s family. When Jael met him outside her tent, she told him, “Quick! Come in here. Don’t be afraid. I will hide you.”

Jael leads Sisera behind the tent or sheet and has him sit down out of sight.

He went into her tent, and she hid him under a blanket. He asked for something to drink so she gave him milk and covered him up. Everybody say, “Aahhh... isn’t that nice!”

Kids respond: **Aahhh... isn’t that nice!**

He thought she would tell no one that he was there.

Soon, he was fast asleep. But... (pause dramatically) while Sisera was sleeping, something happened.

Have Jael walk behind the tent. Have her raise her hand with the mallet or hammer, and bring it down as if she were hitting something. You may have a block of wood or something behind the tent that can be hit.

The narrator checks behind the tent and comes back out with Jael to the audience and continues.

O-o-o-o-o. She got him good. And so it was on that day, God chose a woman to crush the power of the captain Sisera and the evil king, Jabin.

And, it was a woman, Deborah, who had given courage to the Israelite army. Let’s have a hand clap for our actors.

I wonder who else God will choose to bring victory against evil or any false gods. I don’t think God will choose any of you for a fight like this. But will he will choose you to do special work. I bet he chooses you to fight against the dark forces of the enemy by showing the love of Jesus to others! That’s how he brings victory to his people today!

I Choose the Boys

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: There were two girls that God chose for his special plan.

Presenter: That's right, Gordy. Did you know that hundreds of years later God chose another woman to be part of his plan that was even a bigger victory?

Gordy: Even a bigger victory! Wow! What did she use? A hand grenade?

Presenter: No, this woman gave birth to God's own Son Jesus. Do you know who that is?

Gordy: Of course I do. She was Mary, but how was that a victory?

Presenter: Gordy, you know that when Jesus came into the world, he gave his life for us. When he did that, he won a victory over the devil. If we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we are friends with God forever. **God will choose us to do a special work.*

Gordy: He even chooses people like me?

Presenter: Even you.

Gordy: Do I get to use a hammer?

Presenter: No, Gordy. I think God will want you to use the power of his love.

Gordy: How do I do that?

Presenter: Well, let's go back to our small group, and you can find out. Would you close us in prayer?

Gordy: Okay. Dear God, it's kind of neat how you choose people to do your special work. People like Deborah and that other lady. Even like Mary who gave birth to Jesus. And thank you for Jesus who gave his life for us. Help us to trust him. And when you choose us to do your special work, please don't let us miss our chance but do just what you want. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WHAT TO SAY...

Coach the child actors before the Large Group Presentation to say the following:

Copy the characters signs on cardstock, place two hole-punches and thread a piece of yarn long enough to go through the holes. Put the sign on each of the appropriate child actors.

Lines for actors:

SISERA

I'm one mean dude!
(shake fist at audience)

DEBORAH

Chill out! God is with you!
(point to heaven)

BARAK

Oh, no. Whatever will we do?
(shrug shoulders)

SISERA

DEBORAH

BARAK

JAEL