Preschool–Grade 5

Deborah Craft

The palm tree of Deborah · Judges 4:1–24 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



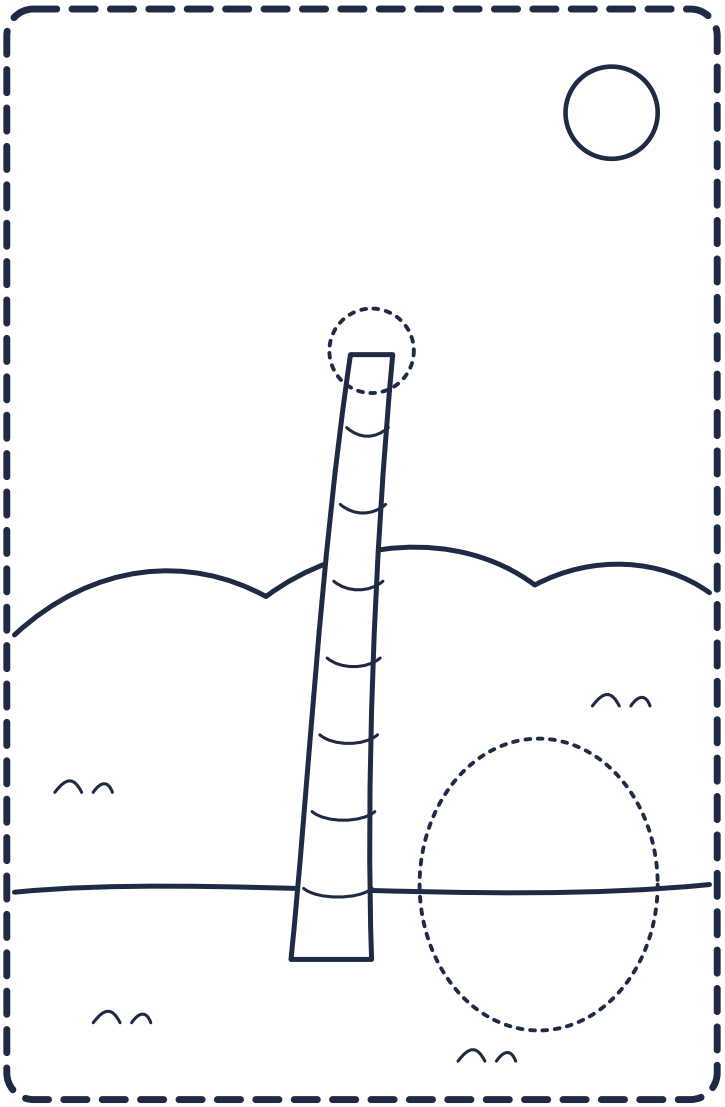
Harder

Both levels are a tall card: a light blue sky with a yellow sun, green hills, yellow ground, and a tall palm tree with a brown trunk and green leaves. At the foot of the tree is a red window where the child has drawn Deborah, because "she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah... and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment" (Judges 4:5). Medium (left): the palm tree card with flat leaves. Harder (right): the same card with a second, bigger set of fringed leaves on top.

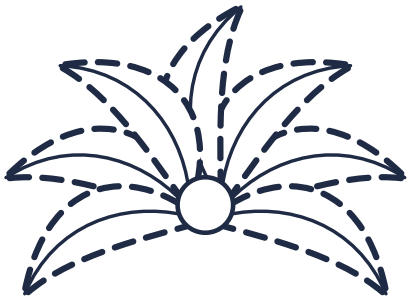
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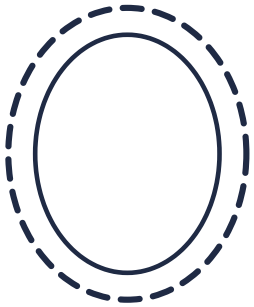
✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: sky light blue, sun yellow, hills green, ground yellow, trunk brown. Glue the leaves on the dotted circle.



palm leaves: green, center brown



window: frame red. Draw Deborah inside.

And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.

Judges 4:14 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

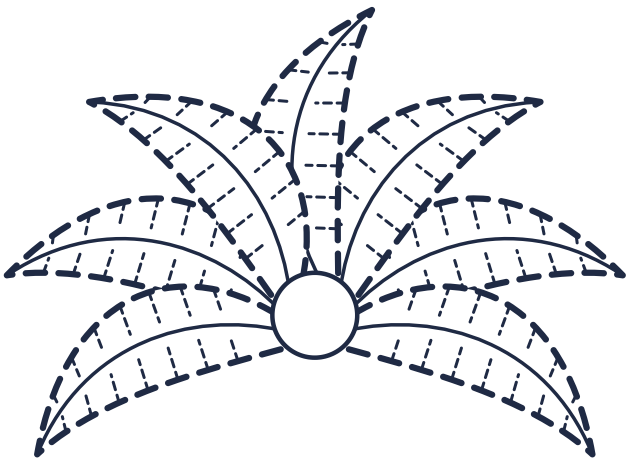
Color each piece the way its label says. Draw Deborah in the window. Cut out the card, the palm leaves, the window and the verse strip.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

Fringed palm leaves (harder level)



leaves green, center brown. Cut around the leaves, then cut the short dashed lines.

How to add the fringed palm leaves

1. Make the palm tree card from page 2 first, with the flat leaves at the top of the trunk, Deborah's window at the foot of the tree and the verse strip on the back of the card.
2. Color the big leaves green and their round center brown. Cut around the leaves on the long dashed line.
3. On each leaf, cut the short dashed lines from the edge in toward the middle line. Stop at the end of each dashed line, so the leaf stays in one piece.
4. Put glue only on the back of the round center. Press it on top of the center of the flat leaves.
5. Bend the little fringes up and out, so the palm tree stands out from the card.
6. Tell it: Deborah judged Israel under this palm tree (Judges 4:4–5). She called Barak to go to mount Tabor, and she went with him (4:6–9). On the day of the battle she said, "is not the LORD gone out before thee?" (4:14), and the LORD gave Israel the victory (4:15, 4:23).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/deborah-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), light blue, yellow, green, brown and red crayons or markers, crayons for drawing Deborah, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the palm leaves, the window and the verse strip.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's card, palm leaves, window and verse strip. Kids color the pieces, draw Deborah in the window and glue the leaves and the window on the card. Glue the verse strip on the back for them.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut out and glue the pieces themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the palm tree card like the medium level. Then add the fringed palm leaves from page 3 on top of the flat leaves and bend the fringes up. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the card:** the sky light blue, the sun yellow, the hills green, the ground yellow and the trunk brown.
2. **Color the pieces:** the palm leaves green and their round center brown; the window frame red.
3. **Draw:** in the window, draw Deborah sitting under her palm tree, with long hair and a long dress.
4. **Cut:** cut out the card, the palm leaves, the window and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
5. **Glue:** glue the center of the leaves on the dotted circle at the top of the trunk, and the window on the dotted oval at the foot of the tree.
6. **Verse:** turn the card over. Glue the verse strip on the back and read it together.
7. **Tell it:** point to the palm tree and say, "she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah... and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment" (Judges 4:5). Then say what she told Barak: "is not the LORD gone out before thee?" (4:14).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Who was Deborah? *(A prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, who judged Israel, Judges 4:4)*
- Point to the palm tree. Where did Deborah dwell? *(Under the palm tree of Deborah, between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim, 4:5)*
- Why did the people come to her? *(For judgment, to have their matters decided, 4:5)*
- Whom did Deborah call? *(Barak the son of Abinoam, 4:6)*
- Where did God tell Barak to go, and with how many men? *(Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men, 4:6)*
- What did Barak say? *("If thou wilt go with me, then I will go," 4:8)*
- What did Deborah answer? *("I will surely go with thee," 4:9)*
- How many chariots of iron did Sisera have? *(Nine hundred, 4:3, 4:13)*
- What did Deborah say on the day of the battle? *("Is not the LORD gone out before thee?" 4:14)*
- Who gave Israel the victory? *(The LORD, 4:15, 4:23)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** a **prophetess** is a woman who speaks God's words; **judged** means led the people and settled what was right; **dwelt** means lived; **for judgment** means to have their matters decided; **gone out before thee** means gone ahead of you.
- **What the Bible says:** Judges 4:5 names the palm tree of Deborah in mount Ephraim, but it doesn't describe the tree, the hills or the colors. The sun, the hills and the colors are the craft's simple picture of the story. Judges 4 gives Deborah no sword, armor or crown, so the craft doesn't either.
- **Drawing Deborah:** kids draw her in the window, under the palm tree of Deborah (Judges 4:5), with long hair and a long dress.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child point to the tree and say, "God goes before me!"
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Deborah lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/deborah.

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