

Black History School:

God's Glory...Our Story

Biblically based • Culturally relevant • Education as liberation

BHS Overview

In Black History School (BHS), we're relating salvation history (God's Glory) to Black history (our story), and **shining a spotlight on some unsung Sheroes in the Bible and the world in which we live.** This Unexpected Strength series studies similarities between the victories God gave God's people in the Old Testament and the victories God gives us when we fight against spiritual wickedness.

Sister Strength

Judges 4:14-24

What You Will Learn:

To discover that our individual, ordinary contributions can lead to collective victory.

Do You Know What Contribution Means?

- A contribution is the part someone plays in helping something to happen or advance. It's the part someone plays in making something better.
- Remember our group projects from Lesson 2? Think about what each of you did to collaborate... (build the tower or create the strategy map)
- What was your contribution? How did you help to create the project?

Building Biblical Knowledge (What is happening in the book of Judges?)

In Lesson 2, we learned that the fight for freedom requires collaboration. Deborah and Barak and his army of Israelites are collaborating to defeat their enemies King Jabin, Sisera and the Canaanites. But each person has a role in the fight against their enemies. Each person makes a contribution. Today we'll learn about one more very important person in this story who contributes to the Israelites' fight for freedom.

Focal Text: Judges 4:14-24

Deborah told Barak, "This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands." So, Barak and his army went down Mt. Tabor into battle with Sisera and his army. The Lord sent Sisera and his army into a panic and confused them. Sisera ran until he reached the tent of a woman named Jael. She was an ordinary woman who lived with her family in a tent in the countryside. **Jael** saw Sisera coming and called out, "Come in, my lord. Don't be afraid." She welcomed him into her tent and covered him with a rug. Sisera was tired from running, so he said, "I'm thirsty. Please give me some water." But Jael went above and beyond—she gave him milk to drink instead, helping him feel safe and comfortable and tired. Sisera told Jael, "Stand at the door of the tent. If anyone comes and asks if anyone is here, say no." Jael knew Sisera was an enemy of God's peo-

ple, and she knew this was her chance to help bring victory. When Sisera fell asleep, Jael acted courageously and defeated Sisera, enemy of God and God's people. Later, when Barak came looking for Sisera, Jael went out to meet him and said, "Come, and I'll show you the man you're looking for." Barak followed her into the tent, and there was Sisera, defeated and no longer a threat.

Questions & Conversation

1. What contribution does Deborah make to this story?
2. Can you imagine what God may have done to confuse Sisera's army and send them into a panic?
3. What do you think Jael was thinking and feeling when Sisera came to her tent?
4. This story starts with Deborah and ends with Jael. Who are some women you know in the Bible, in the World, or in your own families and communities that make contributions to help others and to make the world a better place?

Black Herstory Parallels

Black Herstory: Stories of the Women Who Come Before Us



(L-R) Sojourner Truth, Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa L. Parks, Kamala Harris

Jael's brave and bold contribution helped the people of Israel move forward. Just like Jael, many Black women in American history have made brave and bold contributions to help others move forward.

- **Sojourner Truth spoke up for freedom and justice.**
 - Sojourner Truth was a brave woman who escaped slavery and spoke powerful words to help others fight for freedom and equality.
- **Rosa Parks sat down so others could stand up for civil rights.**
 - Rosa Parks took a stand by sitting down on a bus, refusing to give up her seat, which helped to spark a movement for civil rights and justice.
- **Fannie Lou Hamer stood up so people could have the right to vote.**
 - Fannie Lou Hamer worked hard to make sure Black people could vote, even when it was dangerous, because she believed everyone's voice should be heard.
- **Kamala Harris ran so others could believe they could lead.**
 - Kamala Harris is the first Black and South Asian woman Vice President, the first Asian American nominated for president by a major U.S. political party, the second woman, and second African American, showing that girls can dream big and lead in amazing ways!

Present Day Reflection What small or big contribution can you make today that might help someone else tomorrow?