

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **BEFORE** your children attend church. Because God's plan is for **parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers** of their children's faith, *we want YOU to be the one to introduce* this part of The Big God Story to them.

HomeFront Magazine: A Spiritual Parenting Resource is a monthly resource that gives your family ideas for creating fun, spiritually forming times in your home—setting aside sacred space in the midst of your active, everyday lives. Visit www.HomeFrontMag.com to subscribe to the print or digital copy.

GOD IS MERCIFUL

Deborah

Judges 4—5

God led His people to victory. After the battle Deborah and Barak praised God for helping Israel defeat their enemies.

JUST FOR FUN

Gather some pots and pans or toy instruments (anything to create “music”). Read the account of Deborah (**Judges 4:4–7, 23–24** and **5:1–9**). Explain that after God helped the Israelites win an important battle, Deborah and Barak praised Him. Invite your children to begin making a “joyful noise to the Lord” by using their instruments as you read the song in chapter 5:1–9. At the end of each verse, encourage your children to join you in declaring, “Praise the Lord!”

REMEMBER VERSE

*We praise you, God, we praise you, for your Name is near;
people tell of your wonderful deeds.*

Psalm 75:1

DID YOU KNOW?

- After 80 years of peace, the Israelites turned from the Lord and worshipped false gods. Israel was given into the hands of Jabin—a foreign king. The people cried out to the Lord for deliverance.
- Even in the midst of their disobedience, God delivered His people from the violence and cruelty of their oppressors.
- On the day of victory, Deborah and Barak sang a song telling of God's redemption.

DEVELOPMENT

Your child needs plenty of opportunities to play. Allowing time to sing, dance, and act silly will help her remember the stories you're reading.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss the following together:

- **What did God tell Deborah to command Barak?**
- **For what kinds of things did Deborah praise God?**
- **How can you thank God for His mercy?**

BLESSING

A blessing can be a spoken prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance over your child. For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** @ HomeFrontMag.com.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **may your heart and your voice always sing the story of God's great mercy and love!**