

# Deborah



Judges 4-5

Make notes on the following:

Her character

Her sorrow/heartache

Her joy/redemption

Write a summary of her story

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## Prayer Focus

Israel was in a state of despair. They had lost hope. Today's culture isn't much different. Many of us have lost hope...or we know someone who has lost hope. The loss of hope follows our choice to listen to a voice that does not belong to God - a voice of confusion, discouragement, and condemnation. We can't listen to that voice and the voice of God at the same time. Deborah was able to hear God clearly. She fine-tuned her ability to focus on His voice instead of all of the others. This is the choice she made. She didn't have some super ability that we don't have. She had power from God - the very same power we can call on. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you discern God's voice (it always lines up with Scripture). Ask for His help in cultivating the discipline of actively listening to His voice and help to shut out all other voices.

Notes:

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## Deborah



I am excited to learn more about Deborah with you this week! Her story can be found in [Judges 4-5](#). Why don't you go ahead and read her story in your Bible before continuing on with the study portion. You can take your time with today's lesson - actually with all of the lessons. Take your time and really let the truth of God's word sink into your heart.

Some history: The story of Deborah occurred long after Rahab and Joshua...the Israelites had been slaves to Egypt, gained their freedom through courage and battles, and then fell into sin again, enabling another enemy (Canaan) to enslave them again. Throughout Biblical history, we can see the same pattern over and over again. The Israelites are free when they follow God. They are in bondage after they fall into sin and refuse to turn away from it.

### *The Faith of Deborah.*

1. Thinking about the mini history lesson above, how have you seen freedom and bondage at work in your life? What sin has lead you away from God and into the chains of bondage? How has Jesus set you free?

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I think back on my life and I can easily see where I have turned away from God and then found myself tied up in a twisted web of destruction and sin. And then I can see how I gained freedom as I confessed and repented of my sin and turned away from it. And Jesus healed me of the death and hardness of heart that had grown since I had sinned. I began to understand that when I am in sin and I refuse to confess, repent, and turn away, then I am less able to be productive for His kingdom. Oh, how our enemy has fooled us!

2. Deborah was both a prophetess and a judge over Israel. Israel did not have a king - God's plan was for Israel to be lead by judges instead of kings - that changed when Israel demanded it's own way. Deborah held some incredible positions - especially that of a judge. Why do you think God chose her for these leadership positions? Think about what you've already read about her and her character instead of what you've heard about this story over the years. Focus on what Scripture says. Make a list of what kind of woman she was (eg. her obedience to God).

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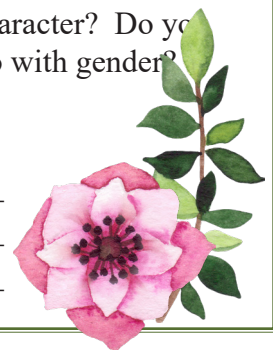
Please note: nowhere in Scripture has it been said that God gave Deborah such a position of authority because there was a lack of qualified and willing men. This is purely speculation on the part of some Bible teachers. What do you think after you have read the story in Scripture yourself and looked at her character? Do you think that God chose her simply because she was obedient to Him and it had nothing to do with gender?

3. Deborah called Barak to her. What did she tell him?

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The phrase “Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded...” is interesting. It makes me think that perhaps God had already spoken to Barak and Deborah is confirming to him what the Lord is telling Israel to do.

How has God brought confirmation in your life?

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4. What was Barak’s response? Why did he want her to come with him?

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Have you ever had more faith in someone else’s faith than your own? Maybe you’ve wanted someone to pray for you because you believed their prayers held more power than your own. Or maybe you felt God telling you to do something but you’d do it only if so-and-so did it with you because you weren’t confident in the call God has placed on your life. Reflect on this for a while.

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5. Read [Hebrews 11:32-33](#). Whose name is mentioned? Barak’s name! He was known for his faith! Not Deborah! I wonder, though, if Deborah spoke truth into his life so much that it made his faith in God grow. And I wonder if the outcome of this story cultivated his faith because it was a lesson learned the hard way. What are your thoughts?

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6. What prophecy did Deborah speak to Barak? What is fascinating about this prophecy?

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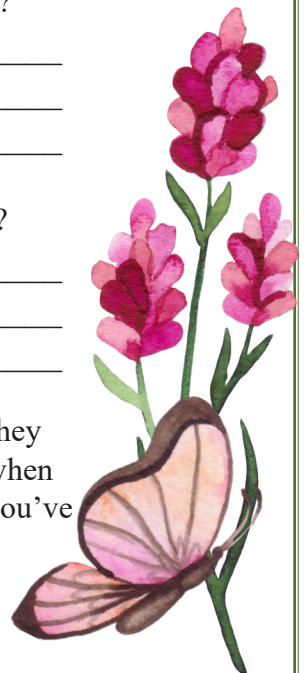
7. How many chariots did Sisera have? Why would this be intimidating to the Israelites?

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These were chariots of iron! Israel did not have such impressive military technology. They were at a great disadvantage and they knew it. BUT...God loves to work on our behalf when we are at a great disadvantage. Think about your own life. Think of those times when you’ve been at a great disadvantage and God delivered you.





8. Still at a great disadvantage, Barak obeyed Deborah - he trusted her completely - and took 10,000 men down to battle. What happened next?

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Scripture uses some interesting words here - let's take a better look at them. Click the link for each word and make notes.

[Discomfited](#) ~

[With the edge](#) ~

[of the sword](#) ~

[lighted down](#) ~

Also read [Judges 5:4-5, 21](#). What happened?

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We can safely assume that God sent a flash flood to hinder Sisera and his army.

9. We are going to skip the last portion of Judges 4 right now - we'll come back to it next week. Let's move on to [chapter 5](#). What did Deborah and Barak do?

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They sang a song to glorify God.

10. Read through "The Song of Deborah" slowly and record any themes you discover.

Some themes:

- Joy & blessing of being used by God.
- The sovereignty of God.
- God's justice over evil.
- The importance of good leadership.





We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater.

*2 Thessalonians 1:3*



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And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak; for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will get well." But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." At once the woman was made well.

*Matthew 9:20-22*



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Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

*James 1:2-4*



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In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

*1 Peter 1:6-7*



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For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

*Romans 1:11-12*



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and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that *we have been destined for this*.

*1 Thessalonians 3:2-3*



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