

NOTES



PRAYER

“Holy Spirit, we invite You to ignite our hearts with Your desire for the next generation. Help us walk in the purpose and destiny You have for us, no matter our age or background. Speak to us through this time together, and let us grow in our understanding of who You are and how we can live for You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

“Can you share a time when you expected something to go one way, but it turned out completely different? How did you handle it?”

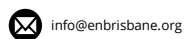
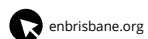


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WORD

The Song of Deborah and Barak

1 *Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day:*

2 *“That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the Lord!*

3 *“Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; to the Lord I will sing; I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel.*

4 *“Lord, when you went out from Seir, when you marched from the region of Edom, the earth trembled and the heavens dropped, yes, the clouds dropped water.*

5 *The mountains quaked before the Lord, even Sinai before the Lord, the God of Israel.*

6 *“In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned, and travellers kept to the byways.*

7 *The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel.*

8 *When new gods were chosen, then war was in the gates. Was shield or spear to be seen among forty thousand in Israel?*

9 *My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless the Lord.*

[Judges 5:1-9 \(ESV\)](#)

In Judges 4, Deborah’s story is unique because she wasn’t the typical leader one would expect in Ancient Israel. She was a woman, a prophetess, and a judge in a male-dominated society. She likely rose to leadership at a younger age when Israel was in turmoil. Barak’s hesitation to go into battle without Deborah suggests he might have doubted his own strength or the odds they were facing. He wanted Deborah’s presence because he saw her wisdom and connection with God.

Barak’s hesitation also highlights an important part of leadership: we need each other. Even though Barak was a military leader, he needed Deborah’s guidance and support. This tells us that leadership is not about doing everything on our own. It’s about partnership and relying on God’s wisdom, even if it comes through others.

Deborah’s rise to leadership may have come as a surprise in her culture, considering she was a female. However, God often calls unexpected people for great purposes, and she responded with courage. Her role reminds us that God’s qualifications are not based on age, gender, or societal expectations, but on a willing heart.

Another powerful part of the story is Jael’s role. Like Deborah, Jael wasn’t a warrior, but she seized the moment when it came. She used what she had —

courage and a simple tool—to defeat Sisera. Jael’s bravery reminds us that we don’t need to wait for the perfect moment or tools; we just need to trust God and act.

In 2024, in urban places like Brisbane, Deborah’s example speaks directly to young people. Her story shows us that anyone, regardless of background, can be a leader for God’s purposes. Today, there are many “Sisera-like” challenges we face—peer pressure, injustice, and personal struggles. But like Deborah and Jael, we can trust God to give us the strength and wisdom to face those battles with faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Deborah was an unexpected leader in her time. Can you think of times when someone unexpected has stepped up and led in your life? How did it impact you?
2. In Judges 4:8-10 Barak hesitated to go into battle without Deborah’s help. Can you think of a time when you needed someone else’s support to face a challenge?
3. Jael took bold action when the opportunity came. How can we be more courageous in the small, everyday moments to influence our world for God?
4. Deborah’s leadership was about serving others and honouring God. How can we lead in our communities, schools, or families in a way that honours God?

“Lord Jesus, we thank You for being our Saviour and our guide. We submit our lives to You today and ask that You would help us live for Your purposes. Give us courage like Deborah, strength like Barak, and boldness like Jael to face the challenges in our lives. Help us to trust in Your wisdom and Your timing as we follow You. Lead us to lay down our lives for others and to walk in Your love. In Your name, we pray. Amen.”