

THE WISDOM OF A DELIVERER

Junior High Lesson - May 17



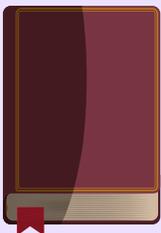
Start with this video on the story of Deborah
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myeSLGXHt4k>

Overview: The Israelites were in distress once more. This time, it was at the hands of King Jabin of Canaan, who was subjugating God's people to his military commander, Sisera, and nine hundred chariots. Jabin treated the Israelites harshly for twenty years and they cried out to the Lord for deliverance.

Once again, God would answer the cries of His people as He had when He sent Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar. This time, God would provide a person of great wisdom and prophetic abilities, someone who seemed to be ideal to deliver God's people from Jabin. Except for one thing: this person was named Deborah. God was going to use a woman to help rescue His people, a quite unexpected twist in such a patriarchal society.

Judges 4:4-7 (have someone from your family read)

Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment. 6 She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, "Has not the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded you, 'Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. 7 And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand?'"



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- We are introduced to Deborah as a prophetess and a judge. As a prophetess, her primary role was to speak the word of the Lord to His people.
- Deborah would sit under a palm tree and help resolve the quarrels of her people. Once again, this role made Deborah somewhat unique.
- Fulfilling either of these roles required a person to submit fully to God. Prophets were often called on to tell God's people messages they didn't want to hear, such as messages of coming discipline because of their unfaithfulness

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think Deborah felt when she had to tell King Barak to take 10,000 to meet Jabin's general Sisera?
2. What you think gave her the courage to obey God?
3. When is the last time you felt like God was asking something you were scared to do? Parents share a story from some time in your life where you had to trust God even though you were scared.



MAIN POINT

God equips all His people -young, old, male, female - with gifts to be used for His glory.

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

1 Peter 4:10

Judges 4:14-16 (Have a different person from your family read)

And Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the LORD go out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. 15 And the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword. And Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot. 16 And Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think the israelites were victorious over Sisera and his army?
- What part did God play in their victory? Look in verses 14-15.
- How do you think Barak and his men felt that day after their victory?
- What feelings did they have for Deborah and her role in winning the battle?
- Where are some areas of your life where you feel that you don't have what it takes to win? What would it mean to allow the "*Lord to go out before you?*"

Share your highs and lows from this past week. Close in pray for each other giving God thanks for your highs and asking God to be with you in your lows.

BIBLE STUDY, GAMES AND FRIENDS

Join us Wednesday @ 7pm on Zoom

check your email on Wednesdays for the link



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

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