

JUDGES 4:4-7

- › Look at verses 1-4. What was Israel's current situation? How did they end up there?
- › Who is ultimately responsible for the Israelites' predicament? Why is that important to note?
- › Why might Barak have been hesitant to go into battle without Deborah? What does this tell us about him?
- › What do we learn about Deborah and her leadership roles from these verses?
- › Why did the Israelites cry out to the Lord for help?
- › What did Deborah command Barak to do? What did Deborah remind Barak about? How might this reminder have been critical to the task?

JUDGES 4:8-16

- › What did Barak ask of Deborah (v. 8)? What difference did Deborah's presence make for Barak and the army (vv. 10, 14)?
- › Despite Barak's fears, God used him and Deborah to utterly defeat Sisera and Jabin's 900 chariots. What does this tell us about God? How does this encourage or challenge you?

CENTRAL TRUTH

Our God is faithful to deliver those who humbly cry out to Him.

NOW WHAT?

- › How has God shown Himself faithful to you and your family in the past? How might you deepen your awareness of His faithfulness?
- › Journal a list of promises in Scripture that God kept. Why is it crucial to remember that God did not keep these promises because of our faithfulness, but because of His own?
- › What are some ways in your own life that courage is needed to take a stand for God?
- › Read Romans 12:1. How did Deborah model this passage? What can we learn from her example?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Schedule a time this week to take a spiritual inventory of your life and how God has guided and directed you. It is important to remember that as a human being with a sin nature, you have a limited perspective on what God is doing in your life, but nonetheless, it is important that we acknowledge God's hand in our everyday lives. In an effort to do so, journal your answers to the following questions.
 - What would my life be like today if I had never heard the good news about Jesus?
 - When have you been really frustrated by your circumstances in life? How do you see God's hand in this? How might He have been working in that situation to tell a better story than you could write for yourself?
 - When has God used other people to keep me from making a bad decision?
- › **Memorize:** Judges 5:3
- › **Pray:** Thank God for His promises to provide for us, protect us, and redeem us. Ask Him to help you trust that He is writing a better story for you than you could write for yourself. Pray that you would trust that this is the case even when you face frustrating trials and difficult situations. Look to Him to humble you to see His hand at work, drawing you to Himself in all that you do and in everything that you face.

KEEP ON DIGGING

- › Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 and journal your findings on what this passage tells you about God's work and His will for your life.