

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## DEBORAH: PROPHETESS, JUDGE, AND MOTHER IN ISRAEL

*“Then Deborah said to Barak, ‘Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD gone out before you?’” (Judges 4:14a)*

### Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	God drove out the Canaanites before Israel. Because of Barak’s hesitation, the honor of Sisera’s death went to Jael instead.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is all-powerful. He will give us strength and power.
<i>Good Works</i>	Put God first in our lives. Seek His power and strength. Support each other and work together in unity.

### A. Deborah: Prophetess and Judge

Deborah was the fourth judge to rule Israel, and she was also a prophet of God. The wife of Lapidoth, Deborah also described herself as a “mother” in Israel.

#### Life Application: Putting God First in Our Lives

With so many responsibilities in our lives, it’s always easy to put God’s work far down our list of priorities because we feel no obligation to do it. But we owe everything to God, so we must learn to give everything to Him by seeking Him first (Mt 6:33).

### B. Barak: A Skeptical and Reluctant Warrior

Despite Deborah’s assurance of victory, Barak refused to go to battle without her. Deborah agreed to accompany him. However, because of his hesitation, Sisera would die at the hands of a woman.

#### Life Application: Be Filled with Power and Strength from God

When asked to do holy work, do we sometimes only want to do certain work when someone does it with us? The root of this reaction often lies in uncertainty and a lack of confidence. But as God’s children, we can rely entirely on His strength (Isa 41:10), especially for His holy work.

#### Life Application: Encouraging and Supporting Our Brethren

It is easy for us to brush someone off with excuses when asked for help, or to try to help without putting forth any effort. But like Deborah, we should join our brethren in their spiritual battles, not just in our prayers or in words, but also in action.

### C. The Lord Goes Before Barak

The Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots before Barak (Judg 4:15). With His great power, He flooded the river and turned their greatest strength into their biggest weakness! It is clear that God works in unexpected ways, so we should simply trust Him instead of trying to anticipate Him.

#### Life Application: Working Effectively with Others

Divine work is better accomplished together. We shouldn’t shoulder all the responsibilities, but learn to divide the load so that we don’t become overburdened. God’s work isn’t a dash, but a marathon!

### D. Jael: The Unexpected Heroine

Because of Jael’s cunning plan, the general who had harassed the Israelites for twenty years died unexpectedly at the hands of a woman, just as Deborah had prophesied.

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## Lesson 2 Homework Assignment

Deborah: Prophetess, Judge, and Mother in Israel

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Judges 4:14a):

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1. What does the memory verse teach us about our spiritual battles?
2. “ \_\_\_\_\_ not, for I am with you; be not \_\_\_\_\_, for I am your God. I will \_\_\_\_\_ you, yes, I will \_\_\_\_\_ you, I will \_\_\_\_\_ you with My righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)
3. “But now God has set the \_\_\_\_\_, each one of them, in the \_\_\_\_\_ just as He pleased. But now indeed there are \_\_\_\_\_, yet \_\_\_\_\_.” (1 Corinthians 12:18, 20)
4. How should we encourage our brethren when they are weak in spirit or fighting a spiritual battle?
5. Explain in your own words what Deborah and Barak teach us about working effectively with others.
6. If you had a dispute with a co-worker in church, how would you resolve it?