

The Promised Land



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church

Week 8: May 8–12, 2017

Day 1

May 8



Pray | For God's will to be revealed to you

DEBORAH IS THE ONLY woman Israelite judge mentioned in the book of Judges. In a time of disobedience for Israel, she was their light pointing to God.

Everyone experiences challenges in their faith journey. There may be times when God feels far away because of our own disobedience. Other times God may seem distant for many reasons including: human suffering, the disobedience of others, or a feeling of God's distance due to being stuck in a "spiritual rut."



Read | Judges 4:1-10



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Today's verses indicate this was a tremendously difficult time in Israel's history. However, God raised up Deborah to serve his people. Who are some of the people God has raised up for you in difficult times?

In verse 8, Barak said to Deborah, "If you go with me, I will go, but if you do not go with me, I will not go." How might Barak's statement relate to your faith journey?

Deborah reminded Barak, in verse 9, that the upcoming battle would not glorify him, but any successes would be of God's will. What does Deborah's statement tell you about her character and her reverence for God?

Day 2

May 9



Pray | Give thanks to God for the Holy Spirit

DEBORAH WAS GIFTED. In some ways, her actions and leadership may be similar to the Holy Spirit for those who have surrendered to Jesus Christ.

Deborah's had gifts of leadership and wisdom, but her greatest gift was her obedience to God. There are many ways in which today's Christians are spiritually gifted. These gifts cannot be achieved apart from Christ.



Read | Judges 4:11-16



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Once again, Deborah encourages Barak and reminds him God would clear their way victory. Why is it important to be reminded of God's promises?

What happens when we rely on our own abilities or take sole credit for our accomplishments?

Sometimes we need a "wake up call" from God for a variety of reasons. Maybe to stop a sinful behavior, proclaim the gospel to someone far from Christ, or to study God's word more intently. What "wake up" calls has God provided for you?

Day 3

May 10



Pray | For God to work in you in all circumstances

GOD USES UNLIKELY people and circumstances to accomplish his mission. This truth is repeated time and time again throughout the Bible.

Today's reading includes the story of Jael and Sisera. It has echoes of the story of Rahab and the spies from the Book of Joshua. God's will is unrelenting.



Read | Judges 4:17-24



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Jael would have been considered an enemy to Israel. She may have had several reasons and motives for helping them achieve their victory. If you are a follower of Christ, what reason and motivations might you have for helping others, even though they are not necessarily friendly to you?

Can you think of any events in world history or any events in your life where God has used a non-Christian to assist in his mission?

Has God ever used you in an unlikely way, or have you ever been that unlikely person he used to further his mission?

Day 4

May 11



Pray | Give credit to God

SONGS OFTEN PROMOTE unity. Whenever a sports team wins a championship, or a president wins an election, a victory song often follows.

A very popular victory song is “We Are the Champions” by Queen. Bill Clinton used “Don’t Stop” by Fleetwood Mac for his presidential victory in 1992, and the Chicago White Sox baseball team used “Don’t Stop Believin’” by Journey for their 2005 World Series Championship. Any mention of God’s glory is completely absent in the aforementioned songs.



Read | Judges 5:1-18



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Many songs tell a story. They help us remember. Are there any times of spiritual growth or challenge you remember because of a song?

Count how many times the words “Lord” and “God” are mentioned in Deborah and Barak’s song in today’s verses. How does this song help to create unity in God for the Israelites?

It is important to give God glory when he works through us. How do you transform spiritually when you take the time to pray and give thanks and credit to God?

Day 5

May 12



Pray | Thank God for his gift of grace

THE SECOND portion of Deborah's song goes into some of the more gruesome details of the battle fought in Judges 4.

There is no shortage, however, of giving the glory to God and a special blessing is given to Jael, a non-Israelite. Verse 31 is especially paramount to Deborah's time as judge. As you read verse 31, think of how you might fit into God's mission.



Read | Judges 5:19-31



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

How does singing God’s praises fortify our faith?

Notice how verse 31 acknowledges “friends” of God and not necessarily the Israelites, God’s chosen nation. What do you think Deborah and Barak mean by using the word, “friends?” If you are not yet a follower of Christ, how might this question apply to you and how you might be able to ask Christ into your heart?

The second part of verse 31 says, “And the land had rest for forty years.” This one sentence sums up Deborah’s tenure as judge of Israel. When you think of what your obituary might say, is there any one sentence that could sum up your tenure throughout God’s mission for you?

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