



## L1.38: The Time of the Judges

### Joshua 24 & Judges 1-3

*Israel served God all the days of Joshua, and they continued to serve God under the elders who had been trained by Joshua. However, after Joshua and the elders he trained died, things quickly changed. They soon forgot all about God, and began to do their own thing. When they began to stop obeying God, one of the nearby nations would attack and oppress them. The Israelites would call out to God for help, and in His mercy He would soon send them a leader to save them. This happened again...and again...and again...and again...*

#### Discuss:

- Joshua was a good and righteous leader. What is a leader? What does it mean to be a good leader?
- During this time, Israel did not have a human king. Who was their king?
- In the book of Judges, we see that Israel was led by people called (of course!) judges! What is a judge?
- God corrected the Israelites when they disobeyed him. Why did God correct them and why does He correct us? (Hebrews 12:6).
- Israel continued to make the same mistakes over and over - they didn't learn from their mistakes. How can we avoid following their bad example...how can we learn from our mistakes?
- How did God show his love and mercy for Israel during the period of the Judges?



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#### Memory Challenge:

##### Judges 2:18

“And when the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge...”



## L1.39: Deborah

Judges 4:1-5

*A woman named Deborah lived in the foothills of Ephraim. The Bible tells us that she was a prophetess and married a man named Lapidoth. Deborah lived during a time when an evil Canaanite king named Jabin ruled in the land. He and his powerful army persecuted the Israelites. Deborah and her people longed for relief from their cruel enemies.*

### Discuss:

- Deborah had faith in God and He gave her the help she needed to be a good judge. If we have faith, do you think God could use us to do amazing things?
- The people suffered greatly under the Canaanites. Why did God allow Israel to suffer? Remember, God promises that obeying Him brings blessings, but disobeying Him brings trouble (Deuteronomy 30:15–20).
- The Bible says that the evil king Jabin had 900 chariots made out of iron! The Israelites were crying out to God for help! Have you ever asked God for help when you were scared? How can we know He will help us?



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### Memory Challenge:

Judges 4:4-5

Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time. And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.



## L1.40: Deborah Judges Israel

Judges 4:6-12

*Israel had no king and the people were being treated harshly by their enemies the Canaanites. God told Deborah the judge that the time had come for deliverance and He had some special instructions for the Israelites. Deborah sent for a man named Barak who she knew would be able to prepare an army as God had instructed. The problem was, Barak did not want to go— unless Deborah came with him. So, together, Deborah and Barak went to gather an army for Israel in preparation for a battle that God Himself was planning.*

### Discuss:

- Deborah was both a judge and a prophetess. There are several women besides Deborah mentioned as prophetesses in the Bible, including Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Isaiah’s wife (Isaiah 8:3), Huldah (2 Chronicles 34:22), and Anna (Luke 2:36).
- God reveals to a prophet or prophetess what He wants the people to know, and they have the responsibility to tell it to the people. What instructions from God did Deborah pass on to Barak?
- God told Deborah He was planning to deliver Israel from their enemies the Canaanites if they followed His directions. What are some promises God gives us if we follow His directions?
- Why do you think Barak wanted Deborah to go with him to gather the army for battle? What did Deborah tell Barak would happen if she went with him?



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### Memory Challenge:

#### Judges 4:9

“So she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.”



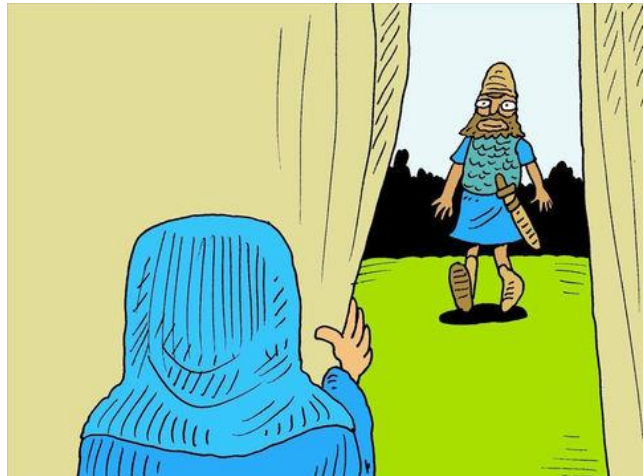
## L1.41: Deborah and Barak Go to War

Judges 4:13-24; 5

*As God instructed, Deborah and Barak prepared the army of Israel to fight against their enemies, the Canaanites. Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army heard what the Israelites were doing, so he gathered together his own army—with 900 chariots of iron! He may have thought his chariots were prepared to meet the Israelites in battle, but He wasn't ready to fight against God! God had a plan to stop those chariots—and they were stopped. They got stuck in the mud! Sisera, seeing the Israelites coming against his army leapt from his chariot and ran away on foot—right into a trap!*

### Discuss:

- The Canaanites had a superior army to the Israelites because they had chariots made of iron, which is a very strong kind of metal. Israel did not have iron weapons, so how were the Israelites able to win the battle against the Canaanites?
- How did God stop the chariots so that they got stuck in the mud?
- What happened to Sisera after he ran away from the battle?
- Who was the woman that Deborah was talking about when she told Barak “the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman”? Deborah mentions her in the song she sang with Barak after the battle.



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### Memory Challenge:

Judges 5:31

Thus let all Your enemies perish, O Lord! But let those who love Him be like the sun when it comes out in full strength.