

## LifeGroup Questions

### Judges

Based On: Judges 4

June 1, 2014

**Overview** This week's overview is taken directly from *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*

Israel had fallen so low that it was now judged by a woman, which would humiliate the men in this male-dominant society (see Isa. 3:12). For twenty years the Canaanites had oppressed Israel, so God raised up this prophetess to lead the way to victory. First she called Barak to deliver the nation (4:1–7), and she even gave him the battle plan from the Lord. Usually the Kishon River was dry, but God was going to send a great storm that would flood the river-bed and trap the chariots of iron (see 4:3 and 5:20–22). Though Barak is listed as a man of faith in Heb. 11:32, we see him here as a man who had to depend upon Deborah for victory. In fact, God used two women to deliver the Jews—Deborah the prophetess and Jael (vv. 18–24). Barak led 10,000 men from Mt. Tabor, trusting the promise of God given by His servant, Deborah. Whatever may have been Barak's weaknesses, God still honored him for his faith. In her song of victory (chap. 5), Deborah praises the Lord for the willingness of the people to fight in the battle (vv. 2, 9). However, she also names some of the tribes that were too cowardly to fight (5:16–17). The battle was held “by the waters of Megiddo” where the Kishon River flowed down from Mt. Tabor. Sisera and his army thought their chariots of iron would give them victory, but it was the chariots that led to their defeat! God sent a great storm (5:4–5 and 20–22) that turned the plain into a swamp, and the enemy could not attack. Israel won a great victory that day, led by Barak, planned by Deborah.

### Bible Study:

1. God could have delivered Israel with or without Deborah and Barak. Those who are called are also moved to action. Discuss a time when you knew God was calling you and how you acted upon it.
2. Both Deborah and Barak had to walk by faith to free Israel. Discuss some common excuses people use when God calls them to step out in faith.
3. Judges 4:8 reads: “<sup>8</sup>Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go.” How does having someone go along with you encourage your faith during difficult situations?
4. God called the unlikely. Deborah was called to lead during a time when society was predominately led by men. Multiple times throughout scripture we see the unlikely called to lead (Moses, Gideon). Why do you believe we have been given these examples of unlikely heroes?
5. Proverbs 29:2 reads: “When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.” How have you seen the truth of this Proverb throughout history?
6. Read Judges 4:6. Barak had to recruit 10,000 volunteers to fight during a time of oppression. In what ways can faithful leadership rally volunteers to a singular cause?

7. Read Judges 5:20-21. If God is fighting for you then who can be against you? How does being overwhelmed by your current circumstances prevent you from trusting in God?
8. In the sermon Pastor Brent said: “It took 20 years for them to come to a place of humility and say, “We’re wrong; we’ll come back; help us.” And we’re often not too far off from them. We know our relationship with our friend or neighbor or family member is not good (we’re oppressed); but sometimes we’re too proud to do what we need to do -- apologize, change our ways.... And sometimes we don’t know what to do to fix it but we’re embarrassed to ask for help for that habit or the financial mess that we’re in or our bad marriage. And we let it go for “20 years.”

A humble cry for help grabs God’s attention. What prevents believers from asking for help and what steps can they take to overcome them?