



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“HEBREWS 11:32-40 / JUDGES 6-8” ON MARCH 24 & 27, 2022

### CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed affect your week?

### DISCOVER: HEBREWS 11:32-40/BARAK

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

Hebrews 11:32-34 and Judges 4: Our journey through the Hebrews Hall of Fame of Faith focuses this week on Barak, whose name appears in only 2 other chapters of the Bible besides Hebrews – Judges 4 and 5. Barak’s story in Judges 4 happens during a time in which the Israelite nation was caught up in a pattern of doing evil in the eyes of the Lord until they found themselves in misery or oppression, then crying out to God for help. God raised up a series of 12 judges to lead the Israelites back to Him each time they cried out; despite the recurring sin of His chosen people, God in His mercy and grace always responded to their cries!

THE ISRAELITES and SIN: Read Judges 3:7 and 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6 and 13:1. The problem with the Israelites’ pattern of recurring sin/crying out/deliverance was that they didn’t learn from the consequences of their sin. They cried out to God NOT because they were repentant or seeking forgiveness and cleansing for their sin; they just wanted a change of circumstances to remove their misery.

- The Israelites had finally entered the Promised Land! What things do you think caused them to repeatedly be drawn into this pattern of sin? How do those same things affect your relationship with God in today’s world?
- Read Psalm 51, a psalm of David after he had sinned with Bathsheba; notice what he asked for as he cried out to God. What do his words show about his heart and intentions in contrast to the Israelites’ pattern described in the Judges verses?
- When you cry out to God, do you really want God to cleanse you, or do you just want to be more comfortable in your circumstances? Where do you see the examples like the Israelites’ attitude of crying out to God today in our nation, our communities, and the personal lives of those around you? What can you learn from all of this?
- What verses of Psalm 51 are most meaningful to you? How could you apply those in your life to grow spiritually?

DEBORAH and BARAK: Only one of the 12 judges raised up by God to deliver the Israelites was a woman. Deborah was leading the Israelites during the time they were being cruelly oppressed by Sisera, commander of the army of King Jabin of Hazor. Deborah sent for Barak and gave him a challenge from the Lord, a promise, and a directive.

- Review Judges 4:1-16. Through Deborah, the Lord challenged Barak to lead 10,000 men into battle against Sisera. Why do you think Barak might have hesitated to jump into what God was calling him to and responded as he did in Vs. 8? What did he have to fear, and what did he have to be encouraged about?
- Deborah agreed to go with Barak. What does this show us about her character and her leadership?
- Deborah told Barak he would not receive the honor for overcoming Sisera’s army. Knowing the credit would be given to a woman, he did the next best thing – he stepped out in faith and WENT when Deborah said “Go!” Is there a place in your life where you are hesitating instead of taking the next big step when God says, “Go!”?

BARAK AND US: What can we learn from Barak?

- Barak hesitated before he responded to God’s call, yet he is mentioned in Hebrews 11 for his faith! Are there moments in your life where you are hesitant to step into who God is calling you to be? In whom or what have you truly placed your faith?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

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- Barak stepped out in faith based on the promise that God would deliver Sisera into his hands. How well do you KNOW the many promises of God from the Scriptures so you can act on them and be encouraged by them? How could you better prepare yourself to learn more of His promises?
- What does the story of Barak show us about the God we serve? With whom could you share about what God did in Barak's life and what God is doing in your own life?

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.