

For Such a Time As This – Great Women of Faith – Deborah & Jael – Sisters in Struggle

Judges 4

This is the final week of Women's Herstory Month where we have been exploring the theme - For Such a Time As This. We've looked at bosswomen throughout the Bible and how they prepared for bold action..

Recap

Esther – For Such a Time as This

1. She focused on hearing from God
2. She was willing to Let Go of privilege and distractions
3. She prepared for Bold Action

Hannah – Her prayer for a son

1. She kept it real with God .
2. She asked for the desire of her heart but she also focused on God's plan
3. She followed through on her promise to God

Miriam – Her song

1. Connect to God through Creativity
2. Find Courage
3. Rally the People

Story of Deborah and Jael –

- Deborah is the only female judge in the Bible and she is clearly a bosswoman
- Her people are in trouble. They have been conquered by King Jabin of Canaan
- Jael is a Kenite woman (nomadic people living in proximity to the Israelites) – distant relation to Moses through inter-marriage – who sees the situation
- Deborah get the resistance started and Jael closes it by killing the military man, Sisera

What Can We Learn from Deborah & Jael's Story –

1. Deborah was clear about God's plan and she spoke with clarity and confidence!
2. Deborah called out that God's plan was about collective action, each person playing their role.. We tend to think of one leader, but God's plans are almost always about multiple people playing their role even if we don't know all of their names.
3. Each woman used the thing that made others overlook them as a secret weapon!
4. Jael acted in solidarity even though she was not directly affected. She took on great risk to help folks

As we think about what God is doing in this time and place, what is your role? Are you called to play a leadership role with your people or a solidarity role? As we are seeking God this Lent, how do get clarity on the larger plan and how we fit in.

Reflections Questions

1. Where is God calling you to rise up like a boss woman? Where are you called to speak and/or act with clarity/confidence?
2. Where is God leading you that requires partnership with others to be successful? How are you seeking the others
3. As you of what God is calling you to, how do you see your own oppression as a part of the plan? How might you be called to be in solidarity with something that might not affect you directly?