



bigIdea small group discussion

It is easy to think of people like Lincoln, John Kennedy, and Martin Luther King as leaders who inspire others to greatness. But God calls everyone to take a stand for Him, but many times we need someone to come alongside us to help us take that stand. Will you be the one?



BIG IDEA: God can do unlikely things when we stand with others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are the women in your life who have been integral to your personal faith development?
2. Share the story of a time in your life when God used a difficulty (person or situation) to cause you to turn your attention back to Him. What did you learn from this or how did it change you?
3. What are the qualities that are admired in a leader? Can you think of any people who possess these qualities? Can these qualities be found in both men and women?
4. *Read Judges 4:1-10.* The scripture tells us that Deborah was married to a man named Lappidoth. What do you think was Lappidoth's reaction to his wife being a Judge? Does the scripture give any reason why God may have selected Deborah to be a Judge? Do you think Deborah run from or embrace her calling God?
5. What words are used to describe Deborah? What other descriptions of Deborah can you provide after reading the passage?
6. How were women in that culture treated and valued? How are women in the middle east culture today treated and valued? How does this differ to how God values women? How the church values women?
7. What was the most important qualification Deborah had that God wanted in a leader?
 - a. She could speak for God (prophet)
 - b. She was wise (judge)
 - c. She was courageous
 - d. She was a gifted military strategist
 - e. Her faith in God
 - f. She was willing to stand with those who need help
8. In Judges 4:6-7 and again in 4:14, what did Deborah do? What does this reveal about her? What do you learn for your own life from Deborah's example?
9. How do you think Barak felt about being called to action by Deborah?
10. What is your impression of Barak's state of mind as he prepared to go into battle? Why did Barak desire for Deborah to accompany him into battle? How did Deborah respond to Barak's request?
11. Do you think that it was hard to ask Deborah to accompany him? What do you think of the fact that Barak would not go to face Jabin's army without Deborah accompanying him?
12. *Read Judges 4:10-24.* Specifically, how did God fulfill His promises to Barak?

THINK ABOUT IT

All of us struggle through situations in which having someone beside us makes it easier to move and go forward. Describe a time in your life when times were difficult and someone chose to stand with you and helped through it.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Is there any situation right now in your life where you need to speak up and stand with a friend who is struggling to follow God? Or are you the one reluctant to obey God? Share with your group what you need to do. Ask them to pray with you about it.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go." Judges 4:8