



Faith Community Church
God's Calling to Action
(Judges, Part 3)

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide



Opening Prayer: Pray that God would open our hearts to His sometimes unbelievable callings, and to have courage to trust Him and act.

Icebreaker: Think about being a foot soldier and facing a tank. How would you feel?

Key Takeaways:

1. The Deborah Distinction: Unlike other judges who were military "strongmen," Deborah was a prophetess and a legal judge. She led through wisdom and hearing from God, demonstrating how God raises and uses leaders in many forms.
2. Barak's Hesitation: Barak represents the "yes, but..." faith. He agreed to go but only if Deborah went with him. His hope was in a person rather than God.
3. The "Mud" Factor: God's strategy didn't involve better weapons; it involved His power and the weather. By sending rain to muddy the Kishon River valley, God turned the enemy's greatest strength into their greatest weakness.
4. The Unlikely Hero (Jael): The "glory" Barak lost was given to a housewife. God doesn't need "extraordinary" people; He needs ordinary people ready to be used.

Discussion Questions:

1. Last week, did you do an idol audit, check for first-hand faith, find a mentor, and share God's work? Tell us about it!
2. Cycles. Israel fell back into the same sins when their leaders died. Why do you think it's so easy for us to "drift" spiritually? How do things like rosy paths and lack of accountability play into this? (Deuteronomy 6:10-15, Hebrews 10:24-25)
3. Reliance: Barak looked at 900 iron chariots and wanted Deborah to go with him. In your own life, do you find yourself waiting for "expert" or "pastoral" presence before you're willing to take a step of faith to which God has called you? (Hebrews 11:8-10)
4. Divine Strategy: God "routed" the enemy, and also used rain to defeat iron chariots. Can you share a time when God used a "natural" or "unexpected" circumstance to solve a problem that seemed impossible to you? (Acts 16:25-32)

5. Hospitality & Action: Jael used what she had—a tent, milk, and a rug—to fulfill God's purpose. What "common" things in your life (your home, hobbies, table, kids) could God use for His Kingdom if you made them available? (Lk 8:1-3, Acts 18:24-26, Rom 16:1-4)

6. Distractions: The tribes of Dan and Asher stayed with their ships and at the coast. What are the "ships" (distractions or comforts) that currently tempt you to stay on the sidelines instead of joining in ministry? (John 12:24-26)

7. Work as Worship: Tobe Awaka called basketball an "act of worship." How would your daily stress level, quality, or intentionality change if you viewed your current job and activities as assignments from God? (1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:23-24)

8. Teamwork: Deborah, Barak, and Jael all had different roles. Which of the three do you most identify with in this season? How and why do we sometimes downplay our callings? (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Practical Applications (Work on all three of these this week)

1. The Act of Worship. This week, pick one mundane task at your job or home (e.g., answering emails, doing dishes, filing reports). Before you start, pray: "Lord, I offer this specific task to You as worship." Observe how this mindset change affects your attitude.

2. Identify Your "Tent Peg": Jael used a tool she was already familiar with. Identify one gift or resource you already possess (hospitality, a spare room, a specific skill, or even your commute time). Commit to asking God this week: "How can I use this specific 'tool' to serve someone else?"

3. Answer the Calling: Look at your church's current needs (like Youth Camp or Faith Group Leaders). Instead of "searching your heart" indefinitely like the tribe of Reuben, pick one area to volunteer for or support financially before the next meeting.

Closing Prayer: Father, forgive us for the times we've stayed by our "ships" while You were calling us to the "heights of the field." Give us the courage of Jael and Deborah to act when the moment arises. Unite our church body to function as a team, with each of us playing our position for God's glory.