



Life Group Study
Judge Deborah
Judges 1-5

The book of Judges opens with the Israelites continuing their successful conquest of the promised land, however their failure to obey God and fully destroy ALL of the evil inhabitants comes back to haunt them in a couple ways. First of all the enemies had a chance to reorganize and counterattack. Secondly Israel turned away from God. They adopted evil practices and idolatry that were practices of the inhabitants of the land. Throughout this period of history Israel went through 7 cycles that can be described the following way: 1). Rebelling against God. 2). Being overrun by enemy nations. 3). Being delivered by a judge who was God-fearing. 4). Remaining loyal to God under that judge, and 5). Again forgetting God after the judge died.

There are Biblical accounts of several women who held national leadership positions, and Deborah was an exceptional woman. She was clearly the best person for the job, and God put her in place to lead Israel. Deborah was a woman who commanded respect, led people into battle, but even more importantly, she influenced them to live for God after the dust settled and the battle was over. Deborah exemplifies what a person can accomplish when God is in control.

Read Judges 1:19-21 and 1:27-36

What happens in life when we don't fully obey God? When we compromise even in subtle ways? Can we really achieve victory on our own?

What happens when we subtly withdraw from God with our decision making? Is there a time that you can recall when you took matters into your own hand and it had consequences? Even consequences for people other than yourself?

What message were the Israelites not getting? How can we apply this with something God is trying to teach us even this week?

Read Judges 2:10-23

What is the repeated pattern that happens over and over throughout the period of the Judges?

Has there been repeated patterns of sin in your life or a loved one's life that has an encouraging outcome? How was God's power revealed to you during this time? Is there a pattern of sin in your life now that your group can pray for? It's been so awesome to see God show up in so many life groups when we lay things out and pray.

Read Judges 3:7-11

Othniel was Israel's first "Judge" Who was he related to? How do you think this shaped him as a man of God? What lesson, as parents, can we take from Othniel's rich heritage? How can we incorporate this into our families?

Is there a family member who really helped to build Godly character into your life? How did that shape you? Are you pouring those Godly characteristics into others?

Read Judges 4:1-10

What are honorable characteristics of Deborah? What does this say about the power of women? Was Barak cowardly or simply in need of support?

Have there been times in your life where you have really stepped out in faith? What was that like? A bit scary? How did that faith lesson help to shape you for the future? Did it impact your family or those in your sphere of influence?

Read Judges 5

It's true that the Song of Deborah mainly focuses on God's mighty deliverance of Israel. Yet, there are also lines in the song that focus on those who didn't participate in this big battle. What are some important points of this whole song?