

# STRONG WOMEN, MIGHTY MEN

Part 2.0 Deborah, Honey Bee or Hornet? Judges 4-5

## The times of the JUDGES

- National CYCLES of relationship with God
  - Departure, Difficulties, DESPERATION, Deliverance
- The Role of 'prophetess' – judicial, political, SPIRITUAL, Commander-in-chief

## The WOMAN Deborah

- She was the wife of LAPPIDOTH vs. 4
- She was a highly RESPECTED judicial arbiter vs. 5
- She was deeply CONNECTED to God vs. 6
- She understood her role in her CULTURE vs. 9
- She was a bold strategic NATIONAL leader vs. 14

## The RESCUE of Israel

- God reveals His military LIBERATION plan vs. 6-7
- Deborah DELINEATE God's plan vs. 8-10
- Deborah and BARAK carry out God's plan vs. 12-16, 23, 5:31

## The STRENGTHS Deborah possessed

- She only led as GOD led her
- When she knew what God wanted she moved CONFIDENTLY
- She FORESAW consequences of decisions
- She wants the BEST for others

## Life Group Questions – September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Judges 4:9**, *'She said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the honor shall not be yours on the journey that you are about to take, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hands of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.*

### QUICK REVIEW

1. A woman's role in the home is so substantial that in some situations only she will be able to accomplish what no one else in the family can. Give some examples of these responsibilities.
2. Does God ever call us or allow us to step outside of normal boundaries to achieve a higher outcome? Why is this? What are some of these "normal boundaries"? What is meant by "higher outcome"?

### MY STORY

1. Have you ever been thrust into service or responsibility in an unexpected way or at an unexpected time? How did you respond? In retrospect, do you think that specific aspects of this situation were God-ordered for you? In what ways?
2. Have you ever felt the need to know that God was with you in a particular season or situation? What did you do?
3. Who are the strong women in your life who have helped shape your life? If you were to write them a letter, what would you say?

### GOING DEEP (read Judges 4)

1. Why do you think Barak wanted Deborah with him? What repercussions did Deborah say this would have for Barak? What is the significance of this?
2. In verse 14, Deborah says to Barak, *"Arise! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hands; behold, the LORD has gone out before you."* She was telling him, "Go, for the time is at hand!" Now was the time to do what Barak was ordained to do. Said another way, serving God takes action, doing something. How are you working to change the world now, and where might God be calling you to more action?
3. Re-read vv. 23-24. It's a summary passage that reminds us that God has been at work. How have you seen God at work in this story from start to finish?

### PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for **you** to remember?