



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

1 Judges 4:4-7, 1 Judges 4:6-9; 1 Judges 5:1-5; 19-21, Judges 5:24, Judges 4:23-24. 5:31

REFLECTION AND STUDY

DAY 1: Read 1 Judges 4:4-7

Deborah would not typically have been considered a hero during biblical times. She was a wife and not a warrior. Her confidence in God is found in a relationship with him. Her bravery is achievable when you put your trust in God and his promises. Her inner strength and calm leadership are characteristic of confidence not in herself but in her God. All Deborah offered to Israel she offers to you as an example of someone willing to be used by God. **Read 1 Judges 4:4-7.**

- Do you sometimes discount your own or someone else's ability to lead?
- Why or Why not?

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you look past outward appearances and cultural biases as you identify your own and other's capacity to become a heroic leader.

DAY 2: Read 1 Judges 4:6-9

Read 1 Judges 4:6-9. Barak looked like a hero but failed to reach his full potential because he placed conditions on his obedience to God's command. Barak was lacking confidence in God and his faith was not as strong as Deborah's however, Deborah and Barak were a good team. Deborah needed Barak to do the work of battle, and Barak needed Deborah to see the things he could not.

- Do you recognize the gifts of those who support you?
- What are some examples of common conditions people put on obedience?

Thank God that His love for us never changes. Thank Him that He is worthy of our confidence and trust and recommit yourself to trusting Him. Ask God to help you be more confident in your ability to follow.

DAY 3: Read Judges 5:1-5, 19-21

In the Song of Deborah victorious leaders credited God with their victories and triumphs. They recognized that God blesses those who follow His lead and understand that their leadership and success is grounded in God's strength not their own. **Read Judges 5:1-5, 19-21.**

- How has God lead you to victory in your life?

Pray that you would recognize God's leading. Thank God for your blessings and victories! Recognize and admit your weaknesses to the Lord and thank Him for being strong where you are weak.

DAY 4: Read Judges 5:24

Read Judges 5:24 The Song of Deborah names Jael as a “most blessed woman”. The only other women in scripture who received that title was Mary, mother of Jesus. Both women acted in faith and with courage

and so became agents of divine change in a dark time. Both were seen as violating the protocol of the day, and both have been praised and slandered for doing so. ("That Mary! She's *pregnant with no husband!*") Both valued God's kingdom more than their own lives. Both changed the course of the world.

- What makes people courageous?
- How can you strive to be more courageous?

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you divine courage. Thank Him for all he has done and continues to do in your life and in the lives of those around you.

DAY 5: Select your own

Select a bible story about a favorite biblical hero and read their story. Identify a biblical hero whose character and deeds you admire. Think of a modern day hero who you admire who demonstrates similar characteristics.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you to cultivate the same kind of heroic character.

DAY 6: Judges 4:23-24, 5:31

Read Judges 4:23-24, 5:31. When God's people trust and obey, and God's chosen leaders behave in heroic ways in response to God's call, communities prosper. Imagine the possibilities of our community prospering and our leaders bravely and obediently following after God. What does that look like?

Pray that we will continue to discern God's call for us individually and for our church so that our ministries are aligned with God's Kingdom's purposes.

DAY 7

Today is your "Sabbath" and a time for reflection. How has God been speaking to you over the week? Use what the Lord has said to you to remold and reshape your life. If you are having trouble hearing God's voice, slow down or even stop what you are doing so that the busyness of life's demands do not squelch the whispers of God's language of love upon your heart.