

WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT **ZELOPHEHAD'S DAUGHTERS – DEBORAH & Jael**

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

Lesson 10 • December 5, 2012

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Rahab** has been helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read Numbers 27:1-11 and 36:1-13

2. According to **27:1-4**, what are the names of Zelophehad's daughters, and in what predicament do they find themselves?
3. To whom and how do they ask for resolution?
4. In **V5-7**, what do you appreciate about how Moses handled their case and the Lord's answer?
5. What precedent do the daughters' actions set for other fatherless and brotherless, (and even voiceless) women?
6. a) In **36:1-4**, even before entering the Promised Land, what possible complication surfaced with this new law?

b) How did Zelophehad's daughters respond to the LORD's further clarification of the law? (**36:5-13**)
7. Read **Joshua 17:3-6**. After entering the Promised Land, what did Zelophehad's daughters do?
8. a) List character traits you see in these 5 women.

8. b) What warms your heart about God's character in their story?

SECTION II: Read Judges 4

9. In your own words, describe the scene surrounding the Israelites using information from **Judges 4:1-3**.

10. Describe Deborah from **V4-5**.

11. What did Deborah tell Barak in **V6-7**?

12. a) What is going on in **V8-10**?

b) Barak put his trust in Deborah more than the LORD. In what circumstances are you tempted to do the same?

13. a) Read **V11-23**. Who is Jael, and why did Sisera feel safe in her tent?

b) Why do you think Jael turned against Sisera? (For one possible explanation, see **V11**.)

14. How would you describe Jael's personality and strengths based on what she does in **V17-23**?

SECTION III: Read Judges 5

15. From **V1-12**, what do you learn about:

a) Deborah

b) People of Israel

c) God

16. a) Who did and didn't fight against the Canaanites according to **V13-23**?

b) Name some "battle" opportunities or callings in which you have remained uncommitted. What causes you to hesitate?

17. Read the rest of the song. What do you find interesting in the contrast between Jael's actions and Sisera's mother's thoughts in **V24-31**?

18. God strengthened Deborah and Jael to be unlikely heroines given their cultures.

a) Where is He nudging you to trust Him for unusual strength given your culture?

b) Write a prayer based on your answer.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We have studied strong women in the Old Testament. Their strength came from the LORD. How are we strengthened in the LORD in the following verses:

Psalm 73:26 _____

Psalm 119:28 _____

Isaiah 41:10 _____

Luke 22:31-32; 1 Thess. 3:2 _____

Ephesians 3:16 _____

2. With the theme of strength in mind, how does **Judges 5:31** encourage you?

3. Suggested Memory Verse: **Judges 5:31**

