



LESSON 6 JUDGES 5

1. What touched your heart from last week's study on **Moses' prayer of intercession**, and how were your own prayers impacted?

DEBORAH'S SONG - VICTORY

Following the patriarchs, Israel was led by Judges. Deborah, a prophet, led Israel as Judge during a time when the Israelites were doing evil in the eyes of the Lord, including worshipping other gods.

2. Before you read Deborah's victory song, pray for God to give you fresh insight. Read **Judges 5:1-31**. What is the overall mood of this song? Jot down your favorite phrases or heart expressions.
3. Read through **Judges 4:4-16** to get a description of the battle between the Israelites under Commander Barak and the Canaanites under Commander Sisera.
 - a) What are some things that stand out about Deborah?
 - b) What is your impression of Barak?

4. Read **Judges 5:1-12**. Deborah praises God for the “willing volunteers” who joined in God’s battle. Write out your praises for the willing volunteers that you know (or know of) who are working hard for or bravely defending God’s kingdom today.
 5. Deborah gives us great imagery in **Judges 5:4-5** and **V20**. How does this help you or inspire you to shape your prayers for the things that God has done for you?
 6. In **Judges 5:10-11**, Deborah focuses on the importance of hearing and telling stories of God’s victory. When have you been encouraged by hearing these kinds of stories from someone’s life?
 7. The tone of the song shifts in **Judges 5:13-23** as Deborah recounts the various Israelite tribes that “came down” to enlist in the battle versus those that stayed home. Comment on the differences you see between those who participated in the battle with the enemy versus those that stayed back (see also **4:6**)?
 8. Think of a time when you were asked to or volunteered to do something difficult or risky. Describe the situation and the outcome. Where do you look for strength in these situations? Share a verse that comes to mind.

9. Skim through **Judges 4:17-24** for context and the read the last verses of Deborah's song in **V24-31**. Jael's marriage to Heber (an ally of the Canaanite king Sisera) limited her chances to help with Israel's fight against Canaan. Yet, as a strong and brave woman she did what she could to align with God's people. In what situation could you turn an obstacle into an opportunity to serving God?

10. Deborah ends her song in **V31** with a stirring proclamation - what attributes of God come to mind? How does this verse inspire you to take new strength in a specific situation in your life?

11. HEART REFLECTION

Meditate on **Psalm 44:8**: "**In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever.**" With Deborah's song as your inspiration, write out your own prayer, boasting of God's victories in your life, how He comes to your aid and gives you strength.

NAME**PRAYER REQUEST**