

Our Bible Sisters:

Deborah – Responding to God's Call

Participant's Guide

This Bible study was written by Marilyn Miller, a staff minister at Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Houston, TX. The theological content was reviewed by Professor Lyle Lange.

Our Bible Sisters is a series of one-hour studies that may be used separately or in any combination. Each looks at a different woman of the Bible, highlighting God's faithfulness in her life, with applications to the lives of all Christian women today.

Copyright ©2014 by Marilyn J Miller; MarilynMiller@aol.com; Permission granted to download from wels.net and duplicate for Bible study

Deborah – Responding to God’s Call

Opening Prayer

“God is faithful! Even in the dismal 350 year period of the Judges, when Israel was pulling away from God, he remained faithful to them. During Joshua’s time Israel saw victory after victory, but in the period of the judges they saw defeat after defeat. God used their trials to call them back to himself. He would always faithfully provide a deliverer.” (Barber, pg 53).

The Setting

1. Scan Judges 2:1–3:6. What cycle do you see during the period of the judges?
2. Read Judges 5:6-8 and 21:25. What was the land of Israel like at the time of Deborah?
3. Many of us may have experienced such desperate times in our life or in the life of someone you love. Why would God allow such a horrible situation in our life?
4. What valuable life lesson do we learn from verse 7?

Deborah’s Life

5. Read Judges 4:4-5. Besides being a mother in Israel (Judges 5:7), what else do we learn about Deborah?
6. Read Judges 4:6-10. What do we learn about the plan for deliverance from Sisera’s army?
7. Why might Barak have responded as he did in vs 8 and what can we learn from this?
8. What can we learn about God’s calling of men and women from Deborah’s response to Barak in vs 9-10 and 14?

The rest of the story: God caused a heavy rain and the enemy army was caught in a great flood. As the chariots got bogged down, the army ran and the Israelites killed them. Sisera stopped at the camp of a friend to rest. Jael, the wife of the friend, drove a stake through his head as he slept. This humiliating death began a cycle of peace and rest for the Israelites. (Judges 4:15-24, 5:4,20-22)

9. Is there or has there been something in your life that feels like 900 iron chariots standing in wait to destroy you?

If Deborah were here, what advice might she give you about:

- Our attitude in times of trial?

- Being prepared to respond?

- Responding to God's call?

10. As a New Testament believer, what are some practical applications of this advice?

Additional Scripture to study: Read Ephesians 6:10-18 (the full armor of God), Psalm 32:5 (confession of sins), 1 John 2:5-6 (obedience to God's Word), Hebrews 13:15-16 (confessing Jesus)

11. Do you see any evidence in your own life of the "sin cycle" we see in Judges? Do you tend to wander and take your relationship with God seriously only when he sends chastening circumstances your way?

Closing Prayer/Meditation

I Hear the Savior Calling, CW 560 vs. 3

*I hear the Savior calling!
The gospel comes to me.
My eyes once closed in blindness
Are opened now to see
That I myself was helpless
To live eternally,
But, dying, Christ did save me,
And now he calls for me!*

Some thoughts for personal/group prayer:

Thank you for loving and caring for me.

Make me sensitive to your chastening hand.

Help me run to you, not from you.

Empower me to be faithful and obedient, ready to follow your calling.

References:

Barber, Wayne; Rasnake, Eddie; Shepherd, Richard. Life Principles from the Women of the Bible, Book 1

Gurgel, Richard; Wendland, Kathie. Heirs Together of God's Gracious Gift of Life. Page 125-6

Kuyper, Abraham. Women of the Old Testament.

Lawrenz, John C. People's Bible Commentary, Judges Ruth.

Lockyer, Herbert, All the Women of the Bible.