

Deborah and Barak (Judges 4-5)

1. Skim Judges 4 and 5. What phrases match the steps of Israel's cycle?
2. What kinds of people were Deborah and Barak? Note some of their character qualities.
3. Is Barak's request for Deborah to go with him meant to be viewed as a lack of faith, caution, or a desire for spiritual backing? How does his loss of "glory" (4:9) interpret the dynamics of obedience?
5. Read Judges 4:11–16 and 5:19–23. How did God help the Israelites gain victory over Sisera and his army?
6. Read Judges 4:17–24 and 5:24–27. What kind of person was Jael?
7. How did God use Jael to clinch Israel's victory?
8. What is significant about the fact that God used two women to help His people?
9. What fears, cultural pressures, or intimidating obstacles tempt you to hesitate or doubt God's call to obey?
10. What is one change you need to make in your life to be more usable for God's service?
11. Where in your life are you relying on your own strength or comfort rather than stepping out in risky obedience like Barak?