



## JUDGES CHAPTER 4 (FACILITATOR)

### **Discussion Starter**

- What is one thing that you have accomplished that you never thought you would be able to accomplish? How did you do it?
- **Opening Prayer**
  - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

### **Tell the Story**

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

### **Read the Story (Judges 4:1-24)**

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU INTRODUCE SOME OF THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES AND THE JUDGES CYCLE WITH YOUR GROUP.**

### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

### **Judges 4:1-3**

- How does Judges 4:1-3 coincide with Joshua 23:11-16?
  - The nation of Israel did the exact opposite of what God had commanded them to do through Joshua. They did not drive out all the nations before them that God had commanded them to (and we are able to see this in Judges chapter one.) In addition to all of this, the Israelites did engage with the nations around them in ways that God had specifically spoken against. Judges 4:1-3 is a direct result of the Israelites not taking God at His word and following Him.

- Is there anything for you that is difficult about not taking God at His word? When it is difficult, how do you typically respond?
  - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

#### **Judges 4:4-10**

- How would you characterize Barak and Deborah and their faith and trust in God? To whom can you more closely relate and why?
  - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
  - Barak saw the major challenges associated with what Deborah had told him concerning Sisera, the general of Jabin's army. While it is true that he was going to have 10,000 men, these men were ill equipped from a military standpoint to deal with Jabin and his army. Additionally, the geography of Mount Tabor would present significant challenges to Barak and his men while giving tremendous advantages to Jabin and his army because they could have just encircled the city at the base of the mountain where Barak and his men would have been easy targets.
    - In what ways do you need to see beyond what can be physically seen so that you can more fully follow the Lord?
      - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

#### **Judges 4:11-24**

- Why is the language in verse 15 "that the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and his army by the edge of the sword significant?"
  - This is incredibly significant because Sisera and his army were much more equipped from a military and strategic standpoint than Israel. This should have been a complete route for Sisera and his army. It wasn't the strength of Israel that defeated Sisera but the power of God.
    - In what ways do you trust in your own power and abilities over and above God's and why is it easier for you to do this at times?
      - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- Why is Jael such an unlikely heroine in this story and what do her actions teach us as disciples today.
  - Jael was a female who was a Gentile. This was a double whammy if you will because she was considered to be property in the eyes of society and she certainly was looked at through eyes of skepticism and hate because she was a Gentile.
  - Jael certainly did not have the resources that Jabin and Sisera had, not even close.
  - Jael is low on the “societal scale.” She doesn’t have some important position or title in the world and culture in which she lived.
    - As disciples of Jesus, we can learn the following lessons from Jael.
      - Our resources aren’t what matters most when seeking to serve and live for God. What matters most is what we do with these resources and whether or not these resources are going to be surrendered to God.
      - My “titles” and “positions” pale in comparison to who God is and what He can do in and through me.
      - “Other people’s “titles” and “positions” pale in comparison to who God is and what He can do in and through them.
      - Jael was available to God which in turn should teach us about our own availability to God. Are we too busy to actually be available to the things that God is calling us to do?

### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Judges Chapter 5)



## JUDGES CHAPTER 4 (STUDENT)

### **Discussion Starter**

- What is one thing that you have accomplished that you never thought you would be able to accomplish? How did you do it?

### **Judges 4:1-3**

- How does Judges 4:1-3 coincide with Joshua 23:11-16?
  - Is there anything for you that is difficult about not taking God at His word? When it is difficult, how do you typically respond?

### **Judges 4:4-10**

- How would you characterize Barak and Deborah and their faith and trust in God? To whom can you more closely relate and why?
  - Barak saw the major challenges associated with what Deborah had told him concerning Sisera, the general of Jabin's army. While it is true that he was going to have 10,000 men, these men were ill equipped from a military standpoint to deal with Jabin and his army. Additionally, the geography of Mount Tabor would present significant challenges to Barak and his men while giving tremendous advantages to Jabin and his army because they could have just encircled the city at the base of the mountain where Barak and his men would have been easy targets.
    - In what ways do you need to see beyond what can be physically seen so that you can more fully follow the Lord?

### **Judges 4:11-24**

- Why is the language in verse 15 "that the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and his army by the edge of the sword significant?"
  - In what ways do you trust in your own power and abilities over and above God's and why is it easier for you to do this at times?

- Why is Jael such an unlikely heroine in this story and what do her actions teach us as disciples today.

- As disciples of Jesus, we can learn the following lessons from Jael.

### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

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- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
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