

# Deborah

## The Warrior

### Who was this person?

Read all of Judges chapters 4 and 5 to understand the story of Deborah.

- Deborah was the fourth judge of Israel AND the only female judge of Israel. That is why her story can be found in the Old Testament book of Judges.
- God chose Deborah to lead Israel. As a national leader, she was very wise and good at giving advice and helping people.
- She was a prophetess—someone who was known for their prophetic power.
- She wrote songs and likely sang them too. Praising helps us in our difficult times.
- Deborah was married and had a husband named Lappidoth, but we don't know much about him.

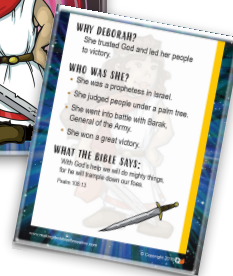
### What is this person known for?

- Deborah always made good choices. She chooses good helpers to work with her.
- She was known for being humble. Whenever people tried to praise her for what she did, she gave the credit to God.
- She always did her best to help others.
- As a judge, Deborah was a wise counsellor, mediator and advisor.
- Deborah led a military victory against the Canaanite people. At a time when the Israelites were once again doing evil in the eyes of the Lord, Deborah called for a man named Barak to go to battle and take 10,000 men with him. Barak wasn't willing to go with Deborah unless she went with him. (Judges 4:8-9)

### WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?

- **To show us that God chooses leaders for specific reasons.** Many times in scripture we can see that God uses people with various skills, talents and abilities. Sometimes God even uses people that may not be as capable as another person. We must always remember that God chooses leaders based on His standards and what He thinks is important. (1 Samuel 16:7)

Making The Bible Come Alive





- **To remind us to seek God.** The life of Deborah demonstrates that when we are need help and direction it is so important to go to God. God is a faithful God Who gives us wisdom to make good decisions, and to help others. It is important for us to seek God everyday for His help. (Matthew 6:33)
- **To remind us to be available and ready to be used by God.** Deborah knew she was facing a difficult task, but she made herself available to be used by God. We should use our wisdom for God's purposes, and not just for what we may think is important or fun.
- **To remind us that God wants us to be humble and not become proud.** We must submit to His leading and not try to do things in our own strength. Our key verse in Psalm 108:13 reminds us that "With God's help, we will do mighty things..."
- **To remind us when give God control He does Great things in us and through us.** Deborah reminds us that when is God is in control of our lives we accomplish great things. She was a strong female leader who had a good relationship with God and encouraged people to love and obey Him too. She was concerned for the spiritual lives of others. Deborah wanted the Israelites to live for God even after the battle was won. Sometimes we can quickly forget Who helped us through our challenging times. Deborah put God first every day.

### LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

**Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.**

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

### MORE IN GOD'S WORD

Aside from Judges chapters 4 and 5, there isn't a lot we read about Deborah. Her life, however, is a powerful reminder that whenever praise came her way she was sure to give God the honour and glory. She remained humble, and would not let proud ruin her life. She was very wise and had been given a very important job as a judge—someone who would rule over

others and make very important decisions, but yet she was so very humble. Her story also reminds us that we must look to God for our help and direction. Can you think of another character in the Bible who asked God for direction? What happened as a result? Can you find that story in Scripture? What is the Scripture reference for that story?