Serving Others

Deborah and Barak

Her name was **Deborah**. She judged Israel's problems under a palm tree in Mount Ephraim (EE-free-uhm). Deborah sent for a man named **Barak** (BAIR-uhk) to be the general to lead the Israelite army against the **Canaanites**. Deborah told Barak that God had said he was to take an army of ten thousand men to Mount Tabor. God would **lure** Sisera and his army of chariots down to the Kishon (KI-shon) River and deliver them into Barak's hands. But Barak said to Deborah, "If thou will go with me, then I will go: but if thou will not go with me, then I will not go."

Deborah said she would go with Barak, but she told him he would not get any glory or honor for winning the battle or for capturing **Sisera.** God was going to deliver Sisera into the hands of a **woman.** "And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh." When **Sisera** was told that Barak and his army had gone to Mount Tabor, Sisera decided to take all of his army to the Kishon River, which was below the mountain. No doubt, looking down from Mount Tabor, Deborah and Barak could see the army of Sisera at the river below.

Deborah said to Barak, "Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee?" God had drawn Sisera to the river. He had kept His Word. Barak and his army of ten thousand men went down to meet Sisera's mighty army with nine hundred iron chariots.

When Barak saw the enemy, he was ready to turn around and go back! Deborah told Barak he should stay and fight the enemy. God would help them. So Barak and his men went to do battle with Sisera—with the Lord's help. The Bible says the Lord "discomfited [or confused] Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host.

Israelites killed many of the Canaanites. When Sisera saw that the battle was going against them, he left his chariot and ran to the tent of **Jael** (JAY-ubl), wife of Heber (HEE-buhr), because there was peace between Jabin and Heber. Jael invited Sisera to come in. She told him not to be afraid. She gave him a blanket to cover himself Sisera said he was thirsty, and Jael gave him some milk to drink. Sisera told Jael to guard the door of the tent while he slept. If anyone came asking if a man was in her tent, Sisera told her to say no. Jael was not as true a friend to Sisera as he thought she was. She knew he was a wicked man and that he was one of God's enemies. So, while Sisera was sleeping, Jael, very carefully and very quietly, went up to him, to see if he was sound asleep. Yes, he was sound asleep. Jael had a hammer in her hand and one of the iron nails that held the tent in place. What do you think she did next? With the hammer she quickly **drove the nail through Sisera's head** and into the ground, killing him

Meanwhile, Barak had been chasing Sisera. As he came toward Heber's tent, Jael ran to meet him. She said, "Come, and I will show thee the man whom thou seekest." Barak went into the tent. There was Sisera, dead. God delivered Sisera into the hands of a woman, as Deborah had said He would. The Israelites, with God's help, won a great victory over King Jabin and the Canaanites. Sisera and his army were defeated! After

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Date: _____

1. What was Deborah's job? [1]

_____

2. What was the name of the army that the Israelite's army fought against? [1]

_____

3. What did Deborah tell Barak to do? [2]

_____

_____

4. Quote Barak's answer to Deborah from paragraph one. [2]

_____

_____

5. What happened to the Israelites' enemies? [1]

_____

6. What Jael do to the leader of enemy army? [2]

_____

_____

7. Why do you think the Lord helped the Israelites win the battle? [2]

_____

_____

8. How did the Lord use Deborah to help the Israelites? [1]

_____

9a. Was God going to deliver the Sisera army to Barak? Write yes or no. [1]_____

9b. Support your answer with evidence from the passage. [2]

_____

_____

10. Write **T** for the true statements. Write **F** for the false statements. [4]

____Jael told Sisera to go way.

____She told him not to be afraid.

____She gave him a blanket to cover himself Sisera

____Jael gave him some wine to drink.

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