

Game of Life

July 9, 2023

Judges 4:6-9

Next Steps

OPENING PRAYER:

Spirit of Integrity, You drive us into the desert to search out our truth. Give us clarity to know what is right, and courage to reject what is strategic; that we may abandon the false innocence of failing to choose at all, but may follow the purposes of Jesus Christ. Amen. -Janet Morley, *Dancing on Mountains: An Anthology of Women's Spiritual Writings*

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the sermon this week?
- Apart from your mother and your wife (if married), who is a woman in your life that you admire? What makes her special and/or a leader?
- What 'spike in the ground' experience has proved to be a turning point in your life, helping you take a stand?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:¹

Read Judges 4:1-22.

- How does this story highlight the role of women over men? What do you think the Israelites felt about having a woman judging and delivering them?
- What made Deborah a leader in the ancient world where women were considered property?
- What do you think of Jael's use of the tent peg and hammer?
- Similar to last week's story of Ehud, the story of Deborah and Jael ends with a tent peg and the death of Sisera. How do you reconcile this death with the fulfillment of God's will?
- What quality of Deborah's would you most like to have?

TAKING THE SCRIPTURE INTO YOUR LIFE:

- Where in your life do you wish you had Deborah's certainty and confidence? What would you attempt to do?
- Share a time in your life where you felt God's timing, like Deborah?
- Under what circumstances do you tend to drift away from the Lord?
- Judges 5 is a song written/sung by Deborah and Barak about the period of prosperity. Deborah is a prophet, leader and songwriter. What three words would you use to describe yourself? Explain.
- We learn in Judges 5 that some tribes contributed to the success of Deborah and the nation, while some did not. In your life have you experienced some people contributing to your life? Are there areas you feel abandoned?

NEXT STEPS:

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or sermon?
- Read Judges 5:1-31. What more do you learn about Deborah and the history of the Israelites?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Lord, give us patience in tribulation and grace in everything to conform our wills to yours, that we may truly say: "Your will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven."

The things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us your grace to labor for.

--Sir Thomas More (1478-1535)