
Deborah Study

Connect



Discovering God through Deborah

What have we discovered so far about God's character from:

- Adam & Eve - God is the loving creator; who blesses us abundantly and is the source of life.
- Cain - God is all knowing He calls us to live by faith and overcome sin.
- Noah - God is just and merciful providing an escape from judgment on sin, making all things new.
- Abraham - God initiates a covenant, tests our faith, bringing transformation and blessing to us and the world.
- Jacob - We reap what we sow, but God is patient and faithful in transforming and restoring us.
- Joseph - God sees the bigger picture, He uses trials to humble, reshape, and prepare us to help others.
- Moses - God is holy, He rescues us from slavery into a covenant relationship, so He can dwell with us.
- Joshua - God encourages us. He strengthens us to face our fears, filling us with hope for the future as we fully obey Him. He leads us to the Promised Land.

This study examines the story of Deborah and what her life reveals about God's character and ways.

Setting the scene:

The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt for 400 years until Moses led their rescue and Joshua brought them to the promised land. After Joshua's death, Israel entered the period of the judges, marked by a cycle: forgetting God, turning to other gods, being conquered by their numerous enemies, crying out to God, and receiving deliverance through a judge—followed by peace before repeating the pattern.

The book of judges is a difficult book to read for it contains some horrific scenes, it is a picture of when a nation rejects God and does what is right in their own eyes, as stated in this verse:

Judges 21:25

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit. (NIV)

1. What was a judge in biblical times?

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2. What spiritual condition were the Israelites in?

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How has our Nation forgotten God? Discuss only.

The Israelites forgot God's ways, leading Him to allow a harsh ruler named Jabin and his ruthless army commander Sisera to oppress them. Faced with such cruelty, the Israelites pleaded with God for help, and He raised up a judge, a woman called Deborah.

3. What do we learn about Deborah?

Read: Judges 4:4-7

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4. What instructions did God give to Barak through Deborah?

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5. What promise did God give to Barak through Deborah?

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Read: Judges 4:8-16

We sometimes read The Bible and almost do not comprehend what we are reading so let's take time to imagine the scene. Deborah is with Barak and only at her command do the men advance and head into battle. God's people gallop on horses into battle to secure the victory over their enemies as God had promised.

This demonstrates the deep respect they had for Deborah, who possessed both authority and the power of God.

"What a beautiful picture of men and women with humble hearts working together in unity for God's purpose, together they would gain the victory." (Quote - Becky Dibb)

6. What do we learn about Barak?

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7. Why did God tell Barak the honour would go to a woman in verse nine?

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8. Why do you think he wanted Deborah to go with him?

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This story reminds me of the time when the Israelites took the ark of the covenant into battle, their trust was not in God but their confidence was in the ark of the covenant that symbolised God's presence, they trusted it to bring them good fortune, likewise Barak's trust was in Deborah who carried the presence of God because God was with her as the judge of Israel.

9. What do we discover about Deborah?

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10. What have we learned about God and His ways so far from this story?

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11. What stands out to you?

Read: Judges 4:17-24

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12. What do we learn about Jael?

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This historical story is about two courageous women who worked with God to fulfil His purposes resulting in victory and deliverance from their cruel enemies.

The soldiers would likely have felt humbled, since it was unusual for a woman to win such a victory; as God had promised, the honour was given to Jael. This event demonstrated that triumph, courage and boldness come from trusting in God's word and power, once more showing that He chooses those regarded as weak—like women, who were considered less strong than men—to display His strength.

13. What stands out to you from these verses?

Judges 5:1-3

On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song:

"When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves—praise the Lord! "Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers! I, even I, will sing to the Lord; I will praise the Lord, the God of Israel, in song. (NIV)

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14. Apart from praising God, why did they write this song?

Judges 5:11

The voice of the singers at the watering places. They recite the victories of the Lord, the victories of his villagers in Israel. "Then the people of the Lord went down to the city gates. (NIV)

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Deuteronomy 8:18-19

But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which He swore to your ancestors, as it is today. (NIV)

Psalm 77:11

will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. (NIV)

We are called to remember God and His faithful deeds so that we do not make the same mistakes as the Israelites, one way to do this is through song.

15. What are we taught about Deborah's attitude towards the men from verses 2 & 9?

Leader, please read:

Judges 5:2

"When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves—praise the Lord! (NIV)

Judges 5:9

My heart is with Israel's princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the Lord! (NIV)

16. What can we take from Deborah's story about living as Christ's followers?

17. What have we learned about God's character and ways from this study?

18. What does Deborah uniquely highlight to us about God's character and ways?

Answers – Discovering God through Deborah

Question

1. What was a judge in biblical times?

Answer

A leader, someone who delivered the Israelites from their enemies, an adviser to the Israelites and someone who settled disputes.

Question

2. What spiritual condition were the Israelites in?

Answer

They were in a bad spiritual state for they did not know God or remember the mighty things He had done. The Israelites abandoned the Lord and broke the covenant. They worshipped other gods; involving child sacrifice, casting off all restraint to practice their wickedness and rebellion; doing what was right in their own eyes, this is a relevant book for us today as we live in a society which has also abandoned God.

Question

3. What do we learn about Deborah from these verses?

Answer

She was a prophetess, meaning; she heard from God and delivered His messages to the people. She was a strong leader, a judge who settled disputes, giving orders to the nation.

Question

4. What instructions did God give to Barak through Deborah?

Answer

Gather your men together, go and fight, and march towards Mt Tabor.

Question

5. What promise did God give to Barak through Deborah?

Answer

He promised him victory by delivering the king into the hands of the Israelites.

Question

6. What do we learn about Barak?

Answer

He had great respect for Deborah his leader, was obedient to God's command, but was unwilling to trust God with all his heart, for he needed reassurance by asking Deborah to accompany him, also he was humble knowing the honour would not go to him but a woman.

Question

7. Why did God tell Barak the honour would go to a woman in v9?

Answer

He wasn't willing to take God at His word; he put his trust in Deborah instead of wholeheartedly trusting God.

Question

8. Why do you think he wanted Deborah to go with him?

Answer

He believed that since God was with her, they would be protected and favoured.

Question

9. What do we discover about Deborah?

Answer

She was God's chosen leader.

Deborah acted as a source of encouragement for Barak by choosing to join him on his mission.

As a prophet she spoke with authority and was a military commander.

She was confident in her God; she believed God's word assuring them of victory, her trust was solely in God as she courageously accompanied the men marching into battle.

Question

10. What have we learned about God and His ways so far from this story?

Answer

God punishes the guilty by handing them over to their enemies.

God is merciful when they turn to Him for help.

God is their deliverer who raises up a judge who He empowers to rescue His people.

God communicates clear instructions through His chosen messenger.

He chooses the weak to shame the strong as He appointed a woman to lead Israel.

His word strengthens the weak and instils courage and boldness to face the enemy.

God works in partnership with women, He values them in their womanhood.

God desires for us to trust wholeheartedly in Him.

God leads His people, ensuring their victory, as nothing can overcome His might.

He is faithful and continually keeps His promises as a covenant-keeping God.

Question

11. What stands out to you?

Answer

God promised victory would come through a woman, which is evident here as a woman killed the army's commander.

Question

12. What do we learn about Jael?

Answer

Jael's family allied with Israel's enemies, so Sisera sought refuge in her tent, trusting she would protect him.

She was ruthless, deceptive and manipulative as she lulled Sisera into a false sense of security by telling him not to be afraid, she comforted him and then plunged a tent peg into his skull.

Jael acted with courage and decisiveness, fulfilling her role by siding with God and defeating the enemy.

Question

13. What stands out to you from these verses?

Answer

Barak and Deborah, humbly recognised the sacrificial service of the soldiers, they worshipped in harmony, acknowledging that their victory was made possible by God ascribing all praise to Him.

This scene beautifully illustrates men and women united, honouring God alongside one another as they work in partnership for God's purposes and join together in worship.

Question

14. Apart from praising God, why did they write this song?

Answer

Writing a song reminded people of God's deeds, encouraging them to remember His past faithfulness rather than forget and live wickedly.

Question

15. What do we learn about Deborah's attitude towards the men from verses 2 & 9?

Answer

She was humble, valued the leaders' courage, supported them as God's chosen, and expressed gratitude for their contributions without competing with them.

She demonstrated support and unity with the soldiers.

Question

16. What can we learn from Deborah's story about living as Christ's followers?

Answer

We are to humbly work in partnership with God and each other, obeying His instructions, knowing that God is with us. He gives us courage and boldness to face the enemy as we trust in His promises and word remembering His faithfulness we must look to God as our deliverer who gives us the strength and victory.

Question

17. What have we learned about God's character and ways from this study?

Answer

God does not accept sin; He justly punishes the guilty.

When people suffer, God is moved with compassion and listens to their cries. Out of mercy, He appointed judges to deliver His people and continually seeks them out, longing for their repentance and return.

He chooses the weak and unlikely to humble the powerful and strong.

God's word strengthens and encourages those who are weak, giving them boldness to face their enemies.

God partners with women, honouring them in their womanhood, and leads His people toward victory—nothing can overcome Him, for He is a powerful warrior who fights for us.

As the ultimate hero, He is mighty to save.

God desires men and women to work together in unity and humility, trusting Him completely.

Above all, He wants to be remembered.

Question

18. What does Deborah uniquely highlight to us about God's character and ways?

Answer

God wants to be remembered. He calls and empowers the unexpected to bring about victory.

Space to Reflect

Bible Studies and Resources Coming Soon from Reshape Ministry

THE ORIGINAL BLUEPRINT

This is a two-part study that examines how the gospel preached and accepted today compares with the original blueprint exemplified in the book of Acts. It also delves into what it means to repent, believe, and be baptised.

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

This 12-part Bible study examines the essential foundations of life as revealed in God's word, offering guidance, security, and hope for those who choose to find all they need in God.

Foundation 1 Jesus
Foundation 2 The Gospel
Foundation 3 Repentance
Foundation 4 Faith in God
Foundation 5 Baptism
Foundation 6 Laying on of Hands
Foundation 7 Resurrection of the Dead
Foundation 8 Eternal Judgment
Foundation 9 Love
Foundation 10 Obedience
Foundation 11 Holiness
Foundation 12 Fear of God

GOD ON CENTRE STAGE BOOK 2

Discovering God through:

1. Samuel
2. Saul
3. David
4. Mephibosheth
5. Solomon
6. Jeroboam
7. Asa
8. Jehoshaphat
9. Elijiah
10. Elisha
11. Jonah
12. Hosea

GOD ON CENTRE STAGE BOOK 3

Discovering God through:

1. Hezekiah
2. Manasseh
3. Josiah
4. Nebuchadnezzar
5. Daniel
6. Mordecai
7. Ezra
8. Haggai
9. Nehemiah
10. Malachi
11. Peter
12. Paul

COMPANION TO GOD ON CENTRE STAGE BIBLE STUDY BOOK 1/2/3

Seeking His heart, deepening your walk in every season.

The companion book invites you to go beyond your initial study and experience deeper spiritual growth through enriching optional teachings and carefully selected readings. Designed to strengthen your prayer life, each book features two thoughtfully crafted sections, **Reflect** and **Encounter**, that guide you into meaningful moments of worship, prayer and personal connection with God. A Spotify play-list is provided.

JESUS ON CENTRE STAGE

This Bible study focuses on exploring God's character by examining Jesus, who fully reveals our heavenly Father through His life, teachings, and miracles. We will take a journey through the pages of the Old Testament in search of Jesus, landing in the New Testament where we will meet the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This series leads to the understanding that Jesus is God, with everything ultimately centring around Him.

1. Jesus - The Mystery of God Revealed
2. The Great I am
3. Messiah on Mission
4. Our Humble and Compassionate king
5. The Veil is Torn; Jesus, Risen to Return and Reign

EQUIPPED TO STAND

This study series will help us discover how the church is called to function as an army, the lessons we will learn will strengthen us to stand firm in our faith when the spiritual battle rages against us exposing the tactics of the enemy and learning to resist the devil.

Session 1 Soldiers in a Spiritual War, Strengthened by God
Session 2 Standing Firm
Session 3 The Lord of Heaven's Armies is His Name!
Session 4 Knowing the Heart of our Commanding Officer
Session 5 Jesus' Perfect kingly Rule
Session 6 Learning Lessons from the Army of the Lord
Session 7 Our Role in God's Army
Session 8 The Power and Blessing of True Unity

ARMOURED UP

When Paul said, 'put on the armour of God', what was he really referring to, and does it match what we've always been taught? We invite you to explore key truths about the armour by following Paul's guidance in his letter to the Ephesians and searching throughout the Bible for greater understanding. Get ready to discover unexpected insights about 'the armour of God', equipping you to stand firm and bring glory to Jesus.

Session 1	Setting Firm Foundations as We Journey Through The Bible Discovering Truths about the Armour of God.
Session 2	Armoured Up With the Belt of Truth.
Session 3	Armoured Up With the Breastplate of Righteousness.
Session 4	Armoured Up with the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace.
Session 5	Armoured Up with the Shield of Faith.
Session 6	Armoured Up with the Helmet of Salvation.
Session 7	Armoured Up with the Sword of the Spirit.

BEHIND THE MASK

This study examines how to recognise deception and identify false teachers by using The Bible as our guide, this is a vital study for the days we are living in.

THE BATTLE PLAN

This is designed to equip you and give you a strategic battle plan to aid you to resist the enemy by recalling the deeds of the Lord, remembering God' character, exposing the schemes of the enemy forged against you and identifying scriptures to strengthen your faith empowering you to stand firm in the spiritual battle that is waged against us.

RETURN TO ME

A Poetic Journey Revealing the Heart of God

A Devotional Companion of Restoration, Identity, and God's Divine Love

'Return to Me' is a heartfelt collection of Christian poetry that invites you into a quiet space of reflection, restoration, and return. Drawing on Scripture and personal encounters with God, each poem echoes His timeless invitation:

"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the Lord Almighty." Zechariah 1:3

For all Bible studies and resources to encourage you on your journey with God please visit
www.reshapeministry.com

A glimpse at God On Centre Stage Book 2



Discovering God through Jehoshaphat:

In this study, we will discover what Jehoshaphat uniquely reveals about God's character and ways.

Setting the scene:
This story unfolds at the time when Ahab ruled as King of Northern Israel while Jehoshaphat reigned as king of Judah in the south.

What do we learn about King Jehoshaphat?

Read: 2 Chronicles 17:3-12 & 2 Chronicles 19:5-7

He was devoted to God, rejected idols, eliminated idolatry in the land, promoted God's teachings throughout all towns, and upheld justice with reverence for God.

How does the time of Jehoshaphat's reign depict the Kingdom of God/God's people living under God's reign on earth?

As God's people under His rule, we should:

- Remove idols
- Seek God
- Teach others to obey Him
- Repent and encourage repentance
- Pursue justice
- Be wholehearted in devotion
- Honour and fear God
- Live holy lives
- Enjoy unity with fellow believers

Jehoshapat's rule gives us a beautiful picture of how we are to live as God's people.

What do we learn about God's character and ways?

- God values and rewards obedience.
- He seeks a relationship with us and desires justice to prevail throughout the land.
- God is our teacher, He calls us to follow His ways faithfully.
- He is holy and calls us to address sin, share His message so others may also enjoy a close relationship with Him, become obedient, and seek Him alone rather than turning to other gods.

Psalm 33

For the word of the Lord is right and true;
He is faithful in all he does.

The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the people of the world revere him.

reshape
MINISTRY

For all Bible studies and resources
to encourage you on your journey with God, please visit:

www.reshapeministry.com