

Lifeline

BELONG

ICE-BREAKER

Who is the most influential woman that you personally know? Why?

SCRIPTURE

Judges 2:1-4 NLT

The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said to the Israelites, "I brought you out of Egypt into this land that I swore to give your ancestors, and I said I would never break my covenant with you. 2 For your part, you were not to make any covenants with the people living in this land; instead, you were to destroy their altars. But you disobeyed my command. Why did you do this? 3 So now I declare that I will no longer drive out the people living in your land. They will be thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a constant temptation to you." 4 When the angel of the Lord finished speaking to all the Israelites, the people wept loudly.

Judges 4:4-9 NLT

4 Deborah, the wife of Lappidoth, was a prophet who was judging Israel at that time. 5 She would sit under the Palm of Deborah, between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites would go to her for judgment. 6 One day she sent for Barak son of Abinoam, who lived in Kedesh in the land of Naphtali. She said to him, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: Call out 10,000 warriors from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun at Mount Tabor. 7 And I will call out Sisera, commander of Jabin's army, along with his chariots and warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will give you victory over him." 8 Barak told her, "I will go, but only if you go with me." 9 "Very well," she replied, "I will go with you. But you will receive no honor in this venture, for the Lord's victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.

Romans 6:14-23 NLT

Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. 15 Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! 16 Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. 17 Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. 18 Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living. 19 Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy. 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. 21 And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. 22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

BE

Did you ever hear from the Lord and then not obey? Why? What was the result?

Read Judges 2:1-4 NLT. Re-read the passage. What is the main issue that the angel of the Lord is addressing? Why do you think it matters to God?

Read Judges 4:4-9 NLT. Identify the characters, places, and tribes named. Then, as a group, explain what is happening in this passage. What can we learn about God from this passage? What can we learn about humankind from this passage?

Verse 6, how does Deborah know what the Lord commands? Discuss.

What was the purpose of being a "judge of Israel?" Why did Israel need judges? Do you think Deborah was overall a good judge or a bad judge? Why?

Read Romans 6:14-23 NLT. What stands out to you? Identify the context: who is writing this passage? To whom? What can we learn about God and what can we learn about humankind?

How can you apply Romans 6 to your understanding of Judges?

DO

Welcome the Lord's presence.

Repent, which means to intentionally turn away from sin and turn toward the Lord, of anything the Lord has put on your heart.

Bless the group to operate in the Holy Spirit gift of prophecy.

Then, prophetically encourage each person in the group.

This week, consider giving special prayer to the women in the group and those in the group that operate as modern day "judges", needing Godly wisdom and discernment.

