



Deborah: WILLING

Judges 4-5

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Warming Up

1. Suppose you polled a thousand people on the following question: What characteristics are most essential for a person to make a difference in the world around them? What would be the most common responses? How does God's perspective on this question differ from the norm?

Digging In

2. *God has a mission that he (alone) fulfills.*
 - What is the downward cycle that we find over and over in the book of Judges? (Look at 4:1-4 for a clear summary of this.) Are there any similarities to our own lives today? How so?
 - The story in Judges 4 plays out in human hands, but the primary emphasis is on the sovereign activity of God. Check out 4:6-7, 9, 14-15, and 23. How do these parallel truths intersect?
 - What does Philippians 1:6 teach us about God fulfilling his mission?
3. *God uses whomever he wants and however he wants to fulfill his mission.*
 - Work your way through the story in chapter 4 and highlight how Deborah, Barak, and Jael are all used by God to accomplish his plan.
 - How do you honestly feel about God using whomever and however to fulfill his mission—especially when it isn't you or isn't someone you believe "fits the profile" of a person God should use? What much-needed reminder do we find in 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 about God's purposes?
4. *God wants you to be a willing participant in his mission.*
 - Notice 5:1-2 and 5:9. What is it about a willing heart that resonates with God?
 - What does it look like to offer yourself willingly to the Lord (see 5:18-19)? What does it not look like (see 5:12-17)?
 - To what degree would you describe yourself as a willing participant in God's mission? What evidence would support your claim?

Breaking Out

5. What is your next step to more willingly participate in God's mission? What is his unique calling on your life? How can you encourage one another as small group members to say an unreserved "yes" to the Lord?