

# Women Take the Lead

Judges 4, 5; Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 545

**H**ave you any special jobs you do at home? Does your Mom or Dad ask you to do things? God has special work for each of us. He never asks us to do things that are too hard for us. Let's discover more about one person to whom God gave a special work.

**G**od gave Deborah a special responsibility—to lead Israel. It was hard work! The people did not obey God. They worshiped idols instead.

Twenty years earlier King Jabin had

attacked Israel. He won the battle and made the Israelites his slaves. Now everyone lived in fear of the king and his general, Sisera, who had 900 chariots of iron.

Deborah was called a judge. She did not have an office in a courthouse as judges do today. She sat outside under a palm tree. When people had a problem, they came to her to help them find a solution. They asked her for advice. Again and again she heard how the people were sorry for turning away from God and for worshiping idols. They asked her to teach them to worship the true God.

One day God spoke to Deborah. "I have heard the prayers of My people. I will deliver them from slavery."

Deborah listened to God's instructions. She passed on the instructions to Barak: "God commands you to take 10,000 men to Mount Tabor. He will lead Sisera into your hands."

Barak was afraid. He knew how cruel Sisera's army was. They had attacked his town.

But Barak respected Deborah. He knew that God spoke through her.

"If you will go with me and my army, I will go," Barak replied.



## The Message

We respect leaders God has placed in authority.

## Memory Verse

“Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king”

(1 Peter 2:17, NIV).

When Deborah agreed to go with him, God gave her a second message for Barak. “Because you want me to go with you, you will not have the honor of winning the battle. That honor will go to a woman.”

Deborah, Barak, and the 10,000 soldiers did very little fighting. As Barak and his men went out to meet Sisera, God intervened. Sisera and his army left their chariots and ran away. Barak and his men caught them and destroyed the army. But in the confusion, Sisera escaped.

Sisera traveled until he came to Jael’s tent. Jael’s husband was one of his friends. So Sisera thought he would be safe there for a while. Sisera asked Jael for something to eat and a place to hide while he rested.

Jael knew that Sisera was a wicked man. While he slept she killed him. And that is how Deborah’s prophecy came true. A woman, Jael, killed Sisera; Barak didn’t.

God uses a variety of people as leaders in His church: men and women, old and young, rich and poor. Children can be God’s leaders too. The Bible says that in heaven “a little child will lead them” (Isaiah 11:6, NIV).

We need to listen to God’s chosen leaders so we can gain *all* of the blessings He has in store for us. When God asks us

to do something, we want to be ready to obey Him.



## S A B B A T H

**DO** If possible, go for a walk with your family. While you are walking, play follow the leader. Take turns in leading the family along the path.

**READ** Find a quiet place and read your lesson together.

**PRAY** See how many church leaders your family can think of. Pray for one of them.

## M O N D A Y

**READ** For family worship, read and discuss Judges chapter 4. Name three people God used to defeat Israel's enemies.

**MAKE** Find out three facts about palm trees. Then use clay or paper to make a palm tree.

**DO** During family worship see how many other stories you can find that mention a palm tree.

**PRAY** Pray for a leader in your local community.

## T U E S D A Y

**READ** Deborah was the only woman judge during Bible times. Look up Exodus 15:20 and Esther 4:15, 16 to learn about other women leaders. How many other women leaders in the Bible can you name?

**DO** Where would you go to see a judge today? Find out five facts about what judges do today.

**DO** Plan to visit your town hall or a courthouse with your parents.

**PRAY** Pray for the judges in your community.

## S U N D A Y

**DRAW** Fan-fold a piece of paper. Draw the outline of half a person. Be sure to go to the edge of the paper. Cut out the half person, but do not cut the folds at the hands and feet. When you open the folds, you should have a line of people.

**READ** Find 1 Peter 2:17 and copy it onto the line of people. Put it where you can see and read it during the week.

**PRAY** Pray for a leader in your school.



Deborah was Israel's only woman judge. She was also a prophet.

## W E D N E S D A Y

**DO** Make a list of four ways to show respect to people in your family.

**ASK** Ask your Mom to help you make cookies. Use a people-shaped cookie cutter or shape the dough into people shapes. Share the cookies with a friend and explain why it is important to respect people in authority.

**PRAY** Review your memory verse; then pray for the leaders in your family.

# THURSDAY

## READ

During family worship today, read and discuss Judges 5. Deborah and Barak sang a song to celebrate God's victory. Make up a song about how God has led you, or about Deborah and Barak. Share your song during family worship.

## PRAY

Pray for the leaders of your country.



# FRIDAY

## DO

For worship today, act out the story of Deborah with your family.

## DO

Make a small circle on a piece of paper to represent your family. Make a bigger circle around it for your church family. Continue to make bigger circles around it for the different levels of authority in the church: your conference, union conference, division, and the General Conference. See how much you can find out about these different levels. Be ready to share what you have learned in Sabbath School.

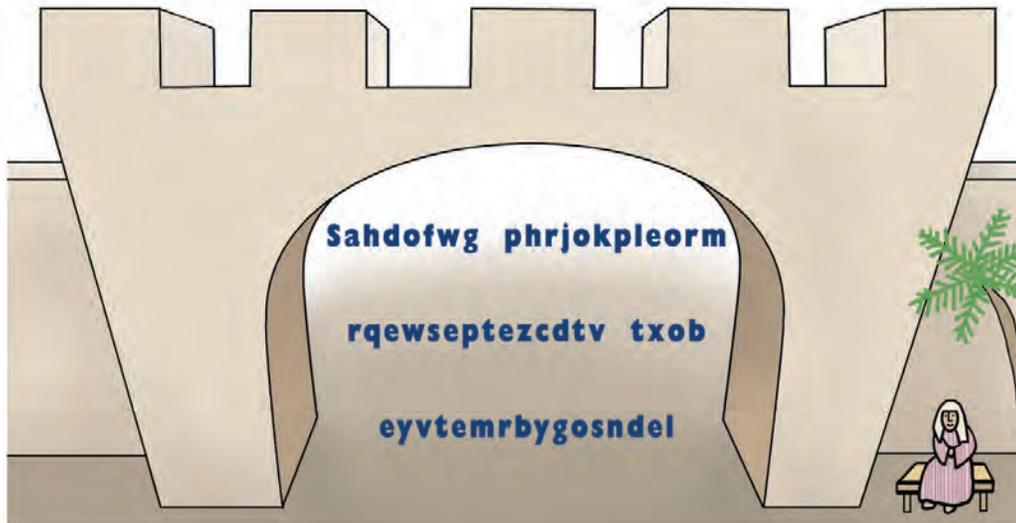
## PRAY

Pray for the leaders of our world church family.

## Women Take the Lead

# PUZZLE

Directions: To find out how God wants us to treat others, cross out every other letter beginning with the second letter. Copy the remaining letters on the lines provided.



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