

A Woman's Work: Our Influence & Leadership

-Lessons learned from Deborah-

Women of the Bible Speak: FWCC Sisters'
Class

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There is nothing too hard for God.

I am a daughter of the King.

God sees me!

He has great plans for me!

I will strive to live as a Christian should.

I will inspire and encourage my sisters to do the same.

Class mantra



Merriam-Webster Definitions

Influence

- Noun
 - The power or capacity of causing an effect in direct or intangible ways
 - The act or power of producing an effect without apparent exertion of force or direct exercise of command

Leadership

- Transitive verb: to guide someone or something along a way; to be first
- Verb: to guide on a way especially by going in advance; to direct on a course or in a direction; to serve as a channel for; to have charge of; to direct the operations, activity, or performance of

Helper

- Noun: one that helps
- **Helps** - Transitive verb: to give assistance or support to (someone): to provide (someone) with something that is useful or necessary in achieving an end

Perspective

- Noun
 - A mental view or prospect; a visible scene
 - The capacity to view things in their true relations or relative importance

“Once again the Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord...”

Post Joshua:
Israel’s Cyclic
Behavior



Background

Judges of Ancient Israel



Judges Names

Years



Moses	Delivered Israel out of Egypt.	40
Joshua	Brought Israel into the Promised Land.	
Othniel	Delivered Israel from king Cushan-rishathaim. The land had rest	40
Ehud	Killed Eglon, king of Moab. The land had rest	80
Shamgar	Killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad.	
Deborah	The commander of Jabin's army was killed by a woman. The land had rest	40
Gideon	Defeated Midian with 300 men. The land had rest	40
Abimelech	The son of Gideon, self appointed ruler over Israel.	3
Tola		23
Jair	Had 30 sons who rode on 30 donkeys, and had 30 cities.	22
Jephthah	Made a foolish vow to God so he could defeat the Ammonites.	6
Ibzan	Had 30 sons and 30 daughters.	7
Elon		10
Abdon	Had 40 sons and 30 grandsons, who rode on 70 donkeys.	8
Samson	Given strength by the Spirit of the Lord; Delilah betrayed him; he killed many Philistines.	20
Eli	Raised Samuel to minister unto the LORD.	40
Samuel	Anointed Saul, and later David, as the king of Israel.	

Enemies of Israel

Years

Cushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia. Israel served	8
Eglon, king of Moab. Israel served	18
Jabin, king of Canaan. Israel was sold into his hand	20
Midian. Israel was given into his hand	7
The Philistines and the Ammonites. Israel was sold into their hand	18

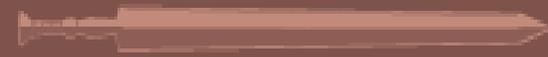
The Philistines.
Israel was given into their hand

40

Whenever the Lord raised up judges for Israel, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from their enemies, but whenever the judge died, they returned to their evil ways and the Lord gave them over to the hand of their enemies. (paraphrased) Judges 2

Background: Judges 2 & 3 | Our Lesson: Judges 4 & 5

Judges of Ancient Israel



Judges Names

Years

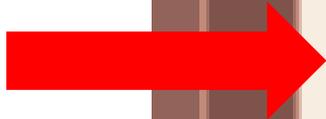


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Additional Study: Judges 6 - 21

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Deborah

Name means
"Bee"

A Mother
in/for/to
Israel

Prophetess

Held court at
the "Palm of
Deborah"

Wife of
Lapidoth

4th & Only
Female
Judge of
Israel

Judges 4:4-5 (NASB) – *Deborah's Introduction*

⁴ Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. ⁵ She used to sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel came up to her for judgment.

Judges 5:6-8 (NASB) – *Life Under Canaanite Oppression*

⁶ “In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned; travelers took to winding paths.

⁷ Villagers in Israel would not fight; they held back until I, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel.

⁸ God chose new leaders when war came to the city gates, but not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.

Judges 4:6-10 (NASB)

⁶ Now she sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-Naphtali, and said to him, “Behold [**Has not**], the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded, *‘Go and march to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men from the sons of Naphtali and from the sons of Zebulun. ⁷ I will draw out to you Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his many troops to the river Kishon, and I will give him into your hand.’”*

⁸ Then Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” ⁹ She said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the honor shall not be yours on the journey that you are about to take, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hands of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

Judges 4:12-16; 23-24 (NIV)

¹² When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, ¹³ Sisera summoned from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River all his men and his nine hundred chariots fitted with iron.

¹⁴ Then Deborah said to Barak, “Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?” So Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him. ¹⁵ At Barak’s advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot. ¹⁶ Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera’s troops fell by the sword; not a man was left.

²³ So on that day Israel saw God defeat Jabin, the Canaanite king. ²⁴ And from that time on Israel became stronger and stronger against King Jabin until they finally destroyed him.

Application



A word cloud of leadership and interpersonal skills. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern. The most prominent word is 'perspective', written vertically in a teal color. Other words include 'cooperation', 'leading', 'listen', 'support', 'ability', 'motivate', 'influence', 'act', 'help', 'faith', and 'availability'. The colors range from light blue to teal.

cooperation
leading
listen
support
ability
motivate
influence
act
help
faith
availability

The Helper

Helps: (transitive verb) to give assistance or support to (someone): to provide (someone) with something that is useful or necessary in achieving an end

Deborah Lapidoth's wife
(Judges 4:4)

- Notable – just because a woman has a special calling does not mean it overshadows the roles of husband and wife in marriage
- Recall God's created order related to marriage (Eph 5:25-32) - Husbands express the glory of Christ; wives express the glory of the Church

Creation
(Genesis 2:18)

- *(NIV) The Lord God said, "it is not good for the man to be alone, I will make a helper suitable for him."*
- Helper – Hebrew word **ezer**, translates to "helper/ally"
 - A high honor, not a derogative term
 - Also describes the role of the Holy Spirit (different word, Paraclete – from the Greek word *parakletos*)

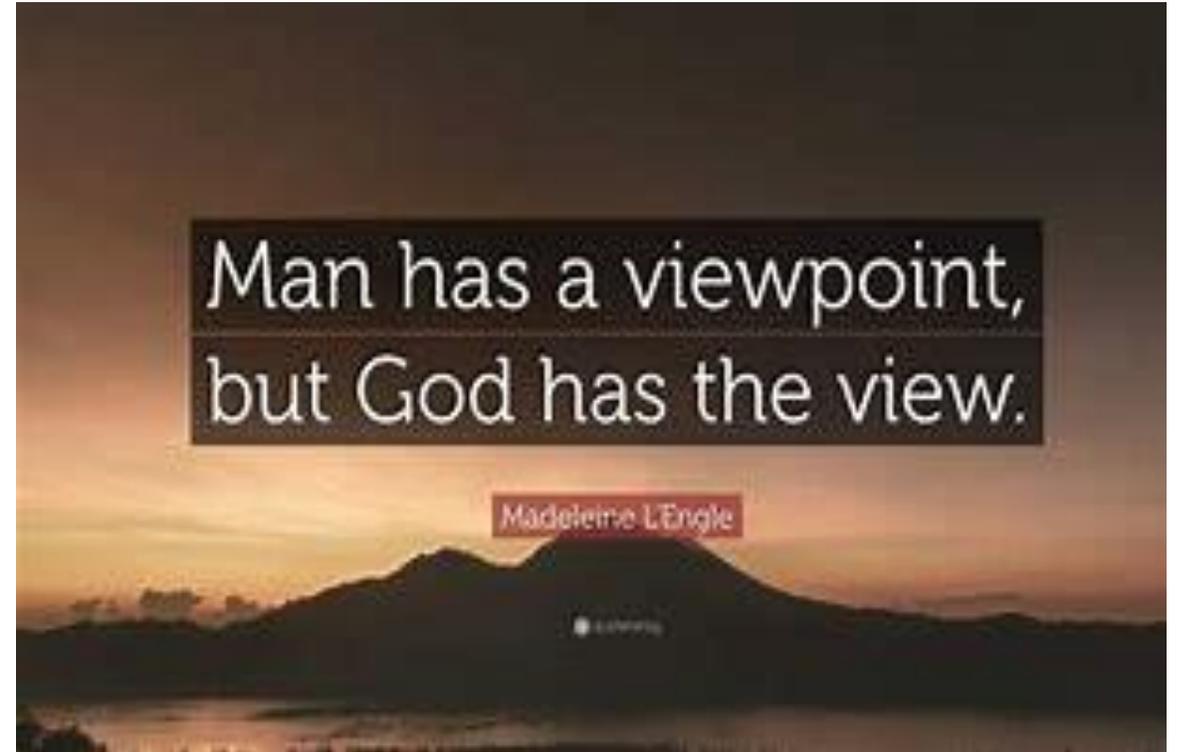
Helpers are very important
people in our world

- They provide (someone) with something that is useful or necessary in achieving an end
- This is our calling as members of the Body of Christ – as sisters we can and should do this for each other and for others

Perspective

Noun: The capacity to view things in their true relations or relative importance

- Things aren't always as they seem, that's why perspective is needed
 - Even though Jabin was the king, the commander Sisera was the real threat
 - Even though Barak was the commander, Deborah was the real leader and inspiration
- Mount Tabor - gave perspective to Deborah and Barak; a place where the light and sight was good
 - We often need a good perspective in life to get to a higher place; to get somewhere where we can see what God is doing



Proverbs 16:9

Leadership, & Support of Leaders

Learn the art of leaning upon each other's strengths and abilities

There would have been no success without Deborah and her prophetic inspiration

- Deborah believed God and took him at his word
- Barak believed in Deborah and her relationship with God

Deborah DID NOT:

- Berate/belittle Barak
- Forget her role and go to battle herself
- Leave Barak to face Sisera alone

Deborah used the power of influence to move Barak's heart and feet into action for Israel's victory

Deborah did not only care for *her* job of leadership; she also had a heart for other leaders and their work.

- If we adopt this framework, our vision should become bigger than just getting our jobs done; we should want to see the Kingdom of God advanced

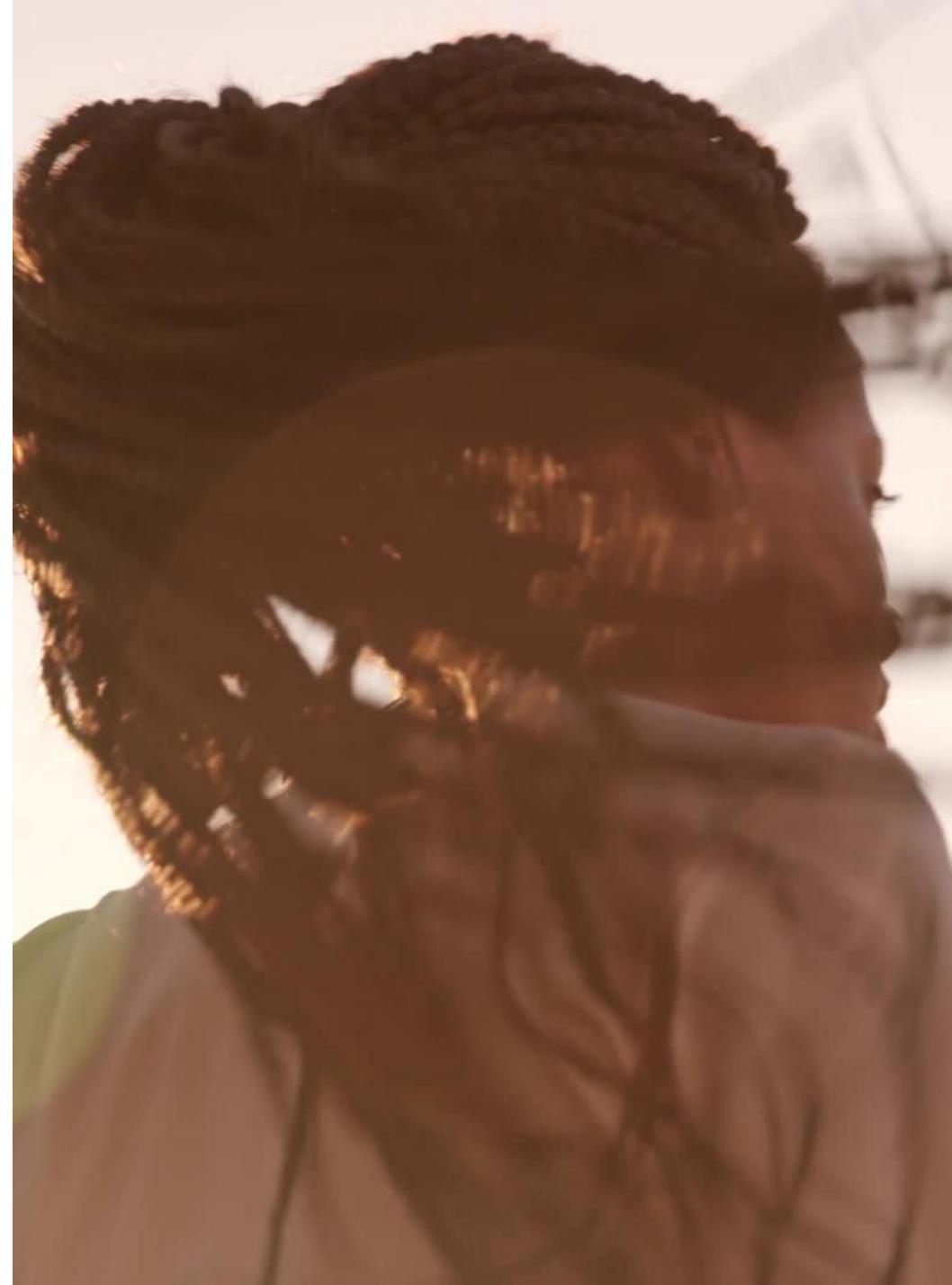
Influence

Noun: The power or capacity of causing an effect in direct or intangible ways

- Deborah inspired and motivated him to follow God because of her words and how she lived her life
 - She was not intimidated, she did not hesitate, and she was willing to go when/where needed
- What If?
 - Deborah refused to go to make a point and Barak didn't go because she refused?
 - Disaster - This was not God's will!

Ask yourself...

1. What freedom and victory await you and those in your life if you learn how to focus and properly use your God-given power to influence?
2. What relational challenges you could avoid if you choose to stop controlling and start Godly influencing?





How can we administer Godly influence?

1st

- **Be motivated by God's word and not people's opinion**
 - Godly influential power starts within our own hearts
 - Remain filled with God's love and truth by reading and studying His word, praying, and fellowshiping with other believers

2nd

- **Invite others to a better way of life (discipleship)**
 - Teach and/or remind others of the promise and truth of God
 - Use our words to build others up, not tear them down (speak the truth IN LOVE)

3rd

- **Be fearless to live out God's truth**
 - We don't inspire and motivate others to follow God because of our words alone, but with our lives and how we live
 - It is not enough just to know God's word, we must boldly live it out and strive to be fearlessly ready to take God at His word with our lives

The Conclusion of the Whole Matter: ***It Is Not Our Ability...It Is Our Availability***

- The glory of Deborah was not in her ability – the glory of Deborah was in her availability to the Lord
 - We can be available, even if we don't *feel* like we are able
 - As women, we have an innate potential to be a helper: to be one that nurtures, equips, brings inspiration, and that brings perspective
 - Our strength lies in our availability to hear, to be used by, and to obey our Heavenly Father
- Daughters of The King – it's time to:
 - Be motivated, be inspired by His word and not what is popular
 - Call out the promises of God and the potential in others to invite them to a better way of life
 - Fearlessly step out in faith and do what God is calling you to do because the world is watching
 - Rise up! We have ample opportunity to make ourselves available to God, leverage the power of our God-given influence, and lead a desperately dying and dark world with the Light of Christ

A Woman's Work:
Our Influence & Leadership

-Lessons learned from Deborah-

Comments
welcomed



Quarter 3 Class Survey



<https://forms.gle/Q8hdnb94hBZbwFef7>