

Sunday School Lesson, June 7, 2026
Rev. Mark A. Seals, Instructor/Teacher
Mike Moore, Superintendent

Lesson—Women in Leadership¹

Text: Judges 4:4-10, 14, 21-22

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Describe Deborah's leadership as a faithful witness.
2. Rejoice in Deborah's excellent example of faithful leadership during harsh circumstances.
3. Followed Deborah's example of heeding God's call to leadership in service to others..

Why This Lesson Matters: Bad choices can land us in a hole out of which we find it impossible to climb. God empowered judge Deborah to deliver Israel when they called on God for rescue from the grips of an oppressive foreign power.

Key Verse: *“And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. 5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. (Judges 4:4-5, KJV).*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. Deborah, the People's Savior (Judges 4:4-10)
3. Jael, the People's Deliverer (Judges 4:14, 21-22)

III. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

Deborah: A prophet and judge of Israel when King Jabin oppressed Israel.

Barak: A military leader of Israel whom Deborah ordered to lead an army against Sisera

Heber: The husband of Jael, who forewarned Sisera of Barak's military position.

Jael: The woman who killed Sisera and, as a result, is credited with ultimately winning the war for Israel.

Sisera: a Canaanite general of Jabin, a Canaanite king who ruled in Hazon.

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnb.com

IV. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)

<i>Arose</i>	<i>Commands</i>	<i>Deliver</i>	<i>Dwelt</i>
<i>Go</i>	<i>Journey</i>	<i>Judged</i>	

V. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

The book of Judges does not explicitly name its author. The book depicts Israel's story before the development of the monarchy. The nation does not have a central government but instead has a series of leaders, known as judges, who, in many cases, helped to deliver the people from outside oppressors. The book introduces the reader to heroes and heroines. It is a book that shows that there are consequences to sin.

The book of Judges shows the capable leadership of women in a male-dominated culture. Deborah, the wife of Lapidoth, was identified as a capable judge, a civil administrator, and a military leader. Deborah is described as a prophet and a judge. Like many wise women in the ancient world, Deborah assisted in settling disputes and clashes among the people. She was also a prophet and considered the only female judge among the five major judges (15 in all) to deliver the Israelites. Deborah was clearly a woman of influence and power. God enabled her and Barack to combine their leadership skills. Deborah devised a plan to defeat the Canaanites, and Barack was charged with executing the plan for the defeat.

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)

We live in a time when women have emerged as striving leaders in all arenas. Women have proven to be formidable influencers in politics, corporations, sports, entertainment, entrepreneurship, and religious arenas. Deborah was a great leader because the good of the people always came before anything self-serving. More importantly, as a prophet, she listened to and followed God's directions. Her leadership style is a faithful example of what authentic leadership looks, feels, and sounds like.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*