



## Sermon Discussion Guide

Jael - Tim Knipp

October 17, 2021

### Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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### Hook - Getting to know one another

- **What has your response been so far to the violence we've found in the book of Judges?** (Share details about the upcoming [Wrestling with Violence in the Old Testament](#) lecture).
- Share a story from your life where you saw God show up, or overcome, in an unexpected way.

### Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.*
- Take turns reading out loud all of Judges chapters 4 and 5 to hear the story of Deborah and Barak and Jael in its entirety, or read Judges 4:17-24 and Judges 5:24-31.
  - What do you find confusing, compelling, or inspiring about this story?
  - **How does this story fit into the Judges Cycle, a cycle of both the sin of Israel and the fierce grace of God?**
  - Tim mentioned the connections between the Deborah-Barak-Jael story and the Exodus story. What parts of Judges 4-5 remind you of other parts of scripture?

### Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- Tim shared on Sunday that the Siseras of this world worship the projections of their own desires. **Who are the Siseras of the world today, and what do we see them worshipping?**



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- Might makes right is the way of Sisera, but sometimes the Church past and present has operated in the name of Jesus using the methods of Sisera. Have you ever observed this before? What do we do in response?
- **Again we see God using a non-Israelite to save His people. What does this teach us about how God moves and works in the world?**

### Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- After spending time in this story, how do you feel invited to join God's unexpected work on our world?
- What character in the Judges 4-5 story do you find yourself identifying with? How does this encourage or challenge you?
- Jesus calls us to turn from the kingdoms of this world and to join the Kingdom of God. **What would it look like to turn from worldly kingdoms and trust Jesus with your life this week?**

### Time of Prayer