



Small Group Discussion Prompts

The Discussion Prompts are provided to dig deeper into a sermon with the respective title mentioned on the right side of this guide (you can find the sermons at www.manheimbic.org/sermon).

Connect
Care
Challenge

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship. Just arrive after a long week of all kind of things. - Ask: Who are you personally?

Carry each others burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Cry together. Support each other. Pray together. - Ask: How are you doing?

Dive into God's word to learn from each others insight. Encourage & challenge each other to a godly life. - Ask: What is God teaching us today?

Key Bible passage: **Judges 4**

Our adventures with God continue. Pastor Dustin took us into **A Time before there were Kings**. Something that sounds like the introduction to a good epic movie, like *Narnia* or *Lord of the Rings*. And even though we learned about an ugly time of history, where war and death was common, we also learned about three different responses to any tough situation: Deborah's response, Barak's response and Jael's response.

Before we dive into these three responses, let's ask ourselves the questions again that Dustin raised:

- Looking at the repeated failure of the Israelites to obey God and ask yourself, *what cycle of "being stupid" is on repeat in your life?*
- When the message is clear, like Deborah's message to Barak, what step of faithfulness can you take right now? Or ask the other question: *what is intimidating you but doesn't intimidate God?*

The answer to these questions will determine your response to the direction God gives on a daily basis. Our response to doing our job, our response to raising kids, our response to ministering to others, and maybe even to a clear, specific calling from God. Deborah called Barak to be a faithful leader. => What has God called you to be?

To help you work on the answers to this question, it might help to ask:

1. Who has been a Deborah in your life? Someone who called you out, to do something for God? And what was it that God told you through that person?
2. When has God called you to do that "something" and you were scared to do it solo, could that same person maybe be a source of encouragement to you, just like Deborah was to Barak?

These questions might seem to be only for some few specifically called individuals, like pastors and missionaries, but ponder if God isn't calling you to step up your game to be someone specific?

This is already cool, but the story doesn't end here. There is this third person: Jael. A women who was not called by God, like Barak was. She was not God's messenger like Debora was. But nevertheless, she was a person of importance in God's story.

Jael used the tools and things that she had, to fulfill God's plan. Now, I am pretty sure that God is not calling you to kill someone, like Jael was designed to do. But it is intriguing that this nomad women, who was used to putting up and tearing down tents, got a hold of what she was used to handling, and used it for God's purpose.

Here is your final task for today: Name one or two things which are common to you and that you know how to use well. How can you use these things for God's purpose and His glory?

Clarify
Celebrate

Know what's to do next, with the studies text, within the group, and in general. Have a mission for the week. - Ask: How do we apply what we have learned?

Celebrate life's success and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to *brag* about God. - Ask: What has God done in our life that deserves praise?

ADVENTURE: Deborah

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

