

Judges Group Studies – Deborah

Study Plan (see hand-out below)

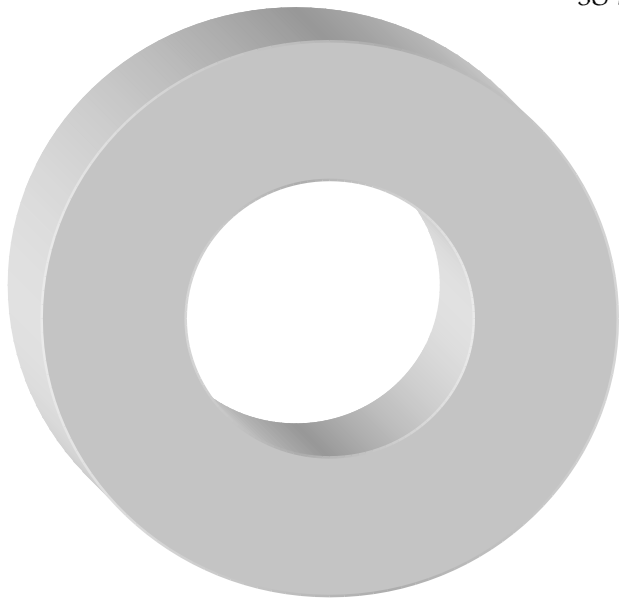
- Do the superhero activity if appropriate for the group
 - (Explain that the Judges are the ‘superheroes’ of the Bible)
- Read Chapter 4.
- What are the differences from the account of Ehud?
 - Deborah a woman and a prophetess
 - Not simply ‘God raised up’
 - Already judging Israel before victory
 - The judge doesn’t do the military leading
 - The main enemy is not the king
- How do the oppressors fit into the developing pattern?
 - They are God’s instrument of judgment
 - They are also the crisis from which God rescues his people
- Update the pattern to take into account the judges so far
 - Delivering into hands
 - Crying out
 - An unlikely hero
 - God active in the victory
 - Gruesome death
 - Reluctant hero
 - Judges make civil decisions
- What is the significance of the Israelite patriarchal society?
 - A woman is not expected to win military victories
 - So God is again using an unlikely hero to reveal his power at work
 - Being saved by a woman is a humiliating rebuke for lack of faith
- Read Hebrews 3:7-14.
- How do we see the same attitudes in Judges that Israel showed in the desert?
 - The unbelieving heart that doubts despite a clear word from God
- What was the ‘unbelieving heart’ in Barak’s attitude?
 - Disobedience to God’s word and distrust in his promise
- How do we exhibit the same attitude today?
 - Requiring earthly/visible things/signs to prop up our faith
 - Making our love conditional
 - Doubting that God can save us
 - Thinking that we can save ourselves (2 Cor 4:7)
- What difference does Christ make to the warning?
 - The judgement of who are God’s people is based on confidence in Christ
 - So the warning is not that sin forfeits our salvation, but to keep in Christ
 - Yet sin obviously is indicative of the heart’s attitude toward Christ
- How do we obey the Hebrews ‘see to it’ command?
 - Looking out for each other – encouraging, warning etc.
- What concrete steps can we commit to as a group?
- Finish in prayer for each step agreed to.



What are the differences from the account of **Ehud**?

How do the **oppressors** fit into the developing pattern?

Update the **pattern** to take into account all the judges so far.



What is the significance of the Israelite **patriarchal** society for the account of **Deborah**?

So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' " See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

Hebrews 3:7-14



What was the '*unbelieving heart*' in **Barak's** attitude?



How do **we** exhibit the same attitude today?



What difference does **Christ** make to the warning?



How do we obey the Hebrews '**see to it**' command?





What concrete steps can we commit to as a **group**?


CRITIQUING COMIC-BOOK CULTURE


Design an original superhero...


NAME:



SIDEKICK:

POWERS: 

WEAKNESSES: 


NEMESIS:

ALIAS: 

CITY: 

Why are superheroes mostly male?
Why are their powers accidental?
Why do they have nemeses?
Why do they have side-kicks?
Why do they have an alias?