

LEADERSHIP #7  
#GirlBoss  
Judges 4-5

Leadership isn't always easy. It's not always fun. In fact, God's plan for leadership in your life may be to have you be a leader during a very difficult season. Do you know how to lead during those times?

Deborah is a great example of strong leadership during a very challenging time.

### **6 Things Leaders Do During Difficult Times**

Judges 4:1-4, *“Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help. Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.”*

#### **1. Deborah was courageous.**

Deborah was brave and obedience to God and led the Israelites in times of challenge, slavery, and oppression.

Judges 4:5, *“She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided.”*

#### **2. Deborah served with wisdom and knowledge.**

Deborah listened well, and when she spoke, she added value to people's lives.

Judges 4:6-7, *“She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.”*

#### **3. Deborah supported the people God called to lead.**

She encouraged Barak and acknowledged his role in leading the Israelites to victory. Deborah’s confidence in God’s power gave the Israelites assurance God was with them.

### QUESTION SET #1-

1- When was the last time in your life that you had to show courage? Family, job, leadership, in your Christian faith?

2- Leaders work hard to establish a feedback loop. That’s a structure put in place where they can hear from the people they lead. How good are you at listening? How do you seek out the opinions, voices, suggestions, and questions of those that you lead? Or do you just assume they you’re there to talk and tell them what to do?

3- Wisdom comes from God, and knowledge comes from study/experience. What are you doing as a leader to grow in both of those areas? What could you do if you desired to have more wisdom in order to lead better?

4- How do great leaders help their followers feel supported? Do you have a story of how you've thrived in the past due to the support/encouragement of your leader?

Judges 4:8, *"Barak said to her, If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."*

4. Deborah was **trusted**.

She earned her position due to her belief and faith in God. Her strong faith earned her the respect of the people, which allowed her to influence and motivate Barak and his men.

Judges 4:14, *"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."*

5. Deborah was **confident**.

She placed her confidence in God. Deborah never hesitated to fulfill God's commands. Her reassurance and strong beliefs led the Israelites to victory.

Judges 5:5- *"On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song..."*

6. Deborah was **humble**.

She gave praise and glory to God because the victory was God's. Deborah and Barak sang a song of thanksgiving and praise to God and the followers. The nation of Israel had peace for forty years due to their belief and obedience.

#### QUESTION SET #2-

1- Leaders won't be followed if people don't trust them. What are ways that leaders can build trust with their team? How can you create a team that is willing to do anything, go anywhere, and follow you wholeheartedly?

2- How does a leader gain confidence? What's the difference between confidence and arrogance? What impact does a leader that lacks confidence and clarity have on their team?

3- Humility is tricky for leaders. Some leaders fake it, and false humility can easily be spotted. Some leaders think they are being humble by tearing themselves down and belittling their accomplishments. But that's not humility either. So what does humility look like in leadership?

4- One of the most awkward comments that I get is when someone compliments me on my leadership or something that I've done. What do you say? Thank you? I know? Well, I worked hard? God has really given me a gift? Learning to be gracious as a leader helps with humility. So go around the room and give a compliment to someone on the group. After you give the compliment, allow the person to give a response geared towards being gracious, humble, and giving credit where credit is due. Be ready with a response, because good leaders will constantly be praised and congratulated. Your response during that time could go a long way for your leadership in the future.