

*Revive Our Hearts™*

# DEBORAH

BECOMING A WOMAN  
OF INFLUENCE

Leader Guide

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## Dear Friend,



Welcome to the Women of the Bible series!

We're excited that you've chosen to lead women through *Deborah: Becoming a Woman of Influence*.

Deborah was a woman used by God and appointed by Him as a judge. Though she was an unexpected candidate to be chosen for such a calling, Deborah courageously stepped out in faith as an instrument of God's deliverance. As we watch the story unfold, we'll see her life as a picture of how we can embrace God's beautiful design *for us* and be used to influence others for good. Ultimately, Deborah's story points to a loving God who faithfully carries out His promises and calls His people back to Himself.

You'll find five themes in this study:

- **Trust the Promises.** Deborah believed the Word of the Lord. We'll learn how to stand on God's promises and trust Him to lead and enable us.
- **Embrace God's Design.** Through Deborah's example, we'll discover how to embrace the beauty of God's design for our identity as women.
- **Trust and Obey.** We'll see the danger of disobeying God and the magnitude of His grace. Deborah, Barak, and others will show us how to respond to the Lord in obedience despite our hesitations.
- **Surrender to His Purpose.** When God places a calling on our lives, He equips us to fulfill His purposes. We'll see how He uses us as instruments for His glory to share the truth of the gospel.
- **Become a Woman of Influence.** As we see Deborah's demonstration of humble valor, we'll learn how to become women who exert a godly influence on others, through Christ who lives in us.

As you step out to lead, remember that God is with you. He uses all kinds of leaders who depend on Him. He doesn't require you to have a certain personality, a particular spiritual gift, or years of experience to produce life-changing fruit from this study. **It will be your teachable heart, humility, authenticity, prayerfulness, and genuine love that becomes the channel of blessing for your group's members.**

Our confidence to lead comes from knowing that the Word of God will always accomplish its purpose (**Isa. 55:11**). You can trust the Holy Spirit to provide all you need to serve Jesus (**2 Peter 1:3–4**). **From beginning to end, it's God's work—and we get to participate in it!**

If you're new to leading a group and aren't sure where to start, we've got you covered! We've created a handbook, **Small Group Leadership Made Simple**, with answers to the questions you may be asking (including answers to the ones you haven't yet thought to ask). If you're considering a virtual Bible study, our **5 Easy Tools for Online Community** infographic will help you compare digital platforms and select the one that meets your group's needs.

Included in this guide to *Deborah: Becoming a Woman of Influence*, you'll find:

- Prompts to prepare your heart to lead.
- General tips for leading a women's Bible study.
- A suggested schedule for your group time.
- Ideas for setting expectations and growing in community.
- Optional activities to spur growth and personal application.
- Resources for digging deeper.

Your commitment to shepherd women as they dig into God's Word matters. We're behind you and trust that the Lord will work in the hearts of the women in your group as well as your own heart in the weeks ahead.

Cheering for you,

Leslie Bennett

Director of Women's Ministry Initiatives for *Revive Our Hearts*



As you seek to equip women through *Deborah: Becoming a Woman of Influence*, here are some suggestions.

## PREPARE YOUR HEART TO LEAD

### COMMIT TO PRAYER

Pray for wisdom and sensitivity to know how best to serve the women joining you for this study. Ask God to show you how to lead them in love. Have a holy expectation that God will transform lives through His power and presence.

Intercede daily for your group members by name. Consider the following prayer prompts and use them as a guide:

- Pray for the Lord to embed His Truth into the hearts of these women.
- Pray for women to become wise influencers filled with the Word of God.
- Pray they will learn and delight in the Lord's design for their identity.
- Pray for those who are stuck in the cycle of sin to experience freedom and the magnitude of God's grace.
- Pray for them to have faith to surrender to God's plan and calling on their life.
- Pray for women to be a willing instrument for the gospel.

Pray Scripture over the group throughout the *Deborah* study. Here are some suggestions:

- **2 Peter 1:3–4** “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”
- **Hebrews 10:23–25** “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

- **Matthew 28:19–20** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

## CULTIVATE LIFE-GIVING LEADERSHIP

Being a leader isn't a status to be earned; it's an invitation to follow Jesus and die to self (**John 12:24–26**). A leader is a servant who willingly lays down her life in order to see Christ grow in her family and in her group members. She dies to her desire to be liked, admired, and for leading to be easy. When a leader's confidence is in Christ instead of herself, she will trust that God is weaving His perfect plan even when it appears to be unraveling.

## LEAD IN HONESTY AND HUMILITY

When we lead out of weakness, God's glory shines brightest (**2 Cor. 12:9–10**). Share out of your own walk with God. When you are honest about your own spiritual struggles, you invite others to be open as you grow together in grace.

Even the sharpest leader isn't expected to know everything, so when you're asked a question you cannot answer, be truthful. Commit to finding the answer and report back to the group the following week.

## OPTIONAL PREPARATION

- Check out Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth's audio series, “**Deborah: A True Woman Joins the Battle**,” which offers further teaching on Deborah, a woman of faith and fortitude.
- Tune in to the *Women of the Bible* podcast, hosted by Erin Davis, and share it with your group members. In sessions that feel a lot like grabbing coffee with your favorite wise women, Erin and friends will walk with you through the study and share their own stories of trusting God's promises and experiencing His faithfulness. Erin's guests include Laura González de Chávez, Laura Booz, and Staci Rudolph. Episodes are also available on video. Listen to or watch the *Deborah* season of the podcast here: [ReviveOurHearts.com/Deborah](https://ReviveOurHearts.com/Deborah).

## TIPS FOR LEADING WELL

- **Share the load.**

Leaders aren't superheroes, so let's not pretend to wear a mask and cape. Invite members to share the load. Consider delegating tasks like group communication, keeping attendance or prayer requests, hosting, or preparing snacks. As you create opportunities to serve, you're developing members to lead in the future.

- **Go for the feast (skip the snack).**

When it comes to discussion, without steady leadership women may discuss all kinds of things *except* the pure Word of God. But why waste time snacking on junk food when there's a banquet spread out in the pages of Scripture? It's up to you, fearless leader, to keep the discussion on track.

God's Word is the plumbline for all of life. You are training women to walk in God's ways with Scripture as their ultimate authority. At times, your group may wrestle to understand difficult parts of Scripture. That's good. Bible study is a process of becoming grounded in truth—not filling in blanks on a page.

- **Liven up a sleepy group.**

Every leader experiences times when the group members seem half-asleep. To spark the discussion (without a jolt of caffeine!), try rephrasing a question or invite someone to share an incomplete thought. Learn to embrace a few moments of silence while women collect their thoughts. Lean on a member who's typically prepared and enthusiastic to share. Or share a tidbit from your own study to get their mouths moving.

- **Be ready to pivot.**

Experiment with different ways of leading to find what works best. Let your group know you'd rather they show up unprepared than stay at home. Be generous in giving grace but keep expecting them to dig deep into the Word on their own.

- **Develop relationships.**

The most memorable and impactful groups have fun, laugh, and even cry together (keep tissues handy!). As you are able, have a touchpoint with individual members or with the group as a whole between meetings. When possible, find time to roll up your sleeves to serve your church and community together or to connect outside the study time for fellowship.



You'll find more tips in the Leader Connection resources available at [ReviveOurHearts.com/leaders](https://ReviveOurHearts.com/leaders).

## CREATE A PLAN FOR A POSITIVE GROUP EXPERIENCE

### SAMPLE SCHEDULE

#### 15–30 MINUTES | CONNECT

- Encourage community.
- Offer refreshments (optional).

#### 45–60 MINUTES | DISCUSS

- Start consistently on time.
- Welcome everyone warmly and open in prayer.
- Lead the discussion using the group questions at the end of the resource as a guide or by pre-selecting questions from each day's homework.

#### 5–10 MINUTES | WRAP-UP

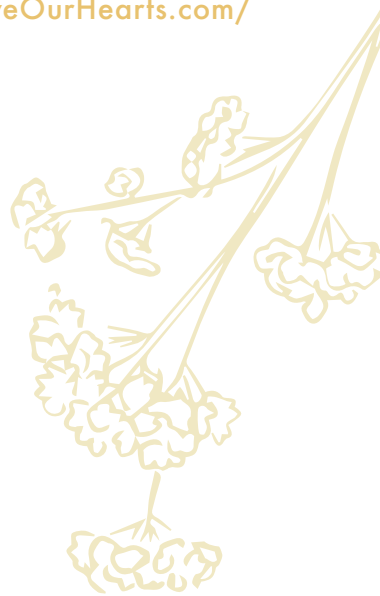
- Introduce next week's topic.
- Clarify the homework assignment.
- Relay your enthusiasm for the truths we'll glean as we dig into the study and meet again.

#### 15–30 MINUTES | PRAY

- Pray for each other.
- End consistently on time.
- Invite members to linger for informal fellowship (optional).

### Alternative Schedule

Some groups prefer a slower pace with shorter meetings. To create a twelve-week Deborah study, we suggest dividing the lessons into two sessions each. Cover days one through three in the first session. In the second session, cover days four and five, then watch or discuss the podcast episode. Be creative and make adjustments along the way.



## SET EXPECTATIONS FOR GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Consider asking your group to affirm these prompts at each meeting.

We will:

- Study lessons weekly.
- Engage with God's truth openly and honestly.
- Stay grounded to the authority of Scripture instead of opinions or experiences.

## SET EXPECTATIONS FOR GROWING IN COMMUNITY

Consider asking your group to affirm these prompts at each meeting.

We will:

- Listen intently to one another.
- Respect different perspectives.
- Create a safe place where each woman can be known and loved.
- Join the discussion without dominating.
- Keep what is shared confidential.
- Refrain from using this study to criticize people or complain about circumstances.

## PLANNING TO LEAD *DEBORAH: BECOMING A WOMAN OF INFLUENCE*

### MEMORY VERSES

Each week of the *Deborah* study begins with beautiful hand-lettered artwork of the memory verse. We hope your group will prioritize rehearsing and memorizing all six verses. Each week's verse is listed here as a handy reference:



- **Week 1- Judges 2:16**

“Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.”

- **Week 2- Proverbs 31:30**

“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”

- **Week 3- 1 Corinthians 1:28–29**

“God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”

- **Week 4- Psalm 119:72**

“The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.”

- **Week 5- Genesis 1:27**

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

- **Week 6- 1 Samuel 17:47**

“That all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give you into our hand.”

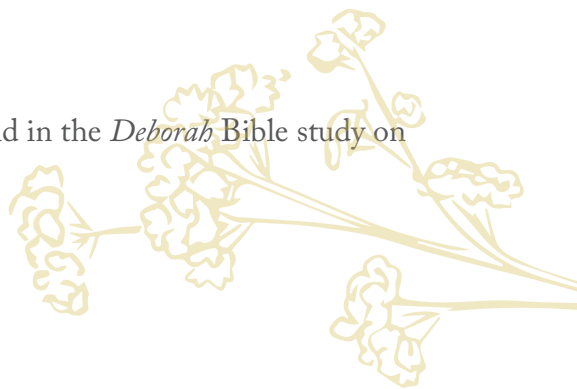
## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions to guide the group’s conversation are found in the *Deborah* Bible study on pages 145-147.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Victory Stories**

Deborah’s story is a reminder that there is no limit to God’s power. He can win any battle, any war, any victory over any person, any circumstance, any situation. Every battle ultimately belongs to the Lord (Psalm 20:7). At each session, plan for someone in the group to share a testimony of how God has fought and won a battle in her life.



- **Instruments in God's Hands**

God's choice of Deborah as an instrument of deliverance inspires women today to surrender their lives as instruments in His hands. For an icebreaker activity, have women choose an instrument or tool and share how it represents her desire to be used by God to fulfill His purposes.

- **Ministry of Encouragement**

True, biblical encouragement is the habit of reminding the people of God of the promises of God, just as Deborah did. Distribute cards to the participants and allow time for them to write a personal note with a promise or verse from Scripture for a pastor, staff member or male leader in the church.

- **Battling in Prayer**

God calls us to cry out through prayer and to wage spiritual warfare on behalf of the Church. At the final session, plan for a time of intercession for God's Church to be revived as a force that pushes back the darkness.

- **Gospel Opportunities**

Pass out blank notecards at the beginning of the first session. Ask each woman to write down the names of two people who need to hear the hope of the gospel. Encourage them to pray daily for opportunities to share Jesus and for their salvation through faith in Him. At the end of the study, have women reflect on how God worked through their prayers and express gratitude that He will continue the good work He began.

## RESOURCES FOR DIGGING DEEPER

### TRUE WOMAN MOVEMENT

Imagine the impact if God would raise up in our day, not just one woman, but thousands of women around the world, women who will arise like Deborah did, women with clarity, courage, conviction, faith, and humility. Women who are willing to say, "Yes, Lord." Women whose lives will inspire the men and women around them to believe God for what only He can do.

## TRUE WOMAN MANIFESTO

With principles drawn from the Word of God, the True Woman Manifesto, is a lens, a way of looking at some of the foundational aspects of what it means to live as a Christian woman.

- [Read and sign the Manifesto](#)
- [Printable Manifesto](#)
- [Pack of 10 True Woman Manifestos](#)
- [A 30-Day Journey Through the True Woman Manifesto plus a Manifesto pamphlet](#)
- [Spanish A 30-Day Journey Through the True Woman Manifesto](#)
- [Pack of 10, A 30-Day Journey Through the True Woman Manifesto](#)
- [Explore all resources related to biblical womanhood](#)



