Welcome to our Bible study! So everyone can get to know everyone, go around the room with everyone taking turns telling:

1. Your name.
2. An answer to one or two of these questions. (If your group is large, only answer one each.)
   - What do you think about the recent change to allow enlisted women into marine infantry and active combat?
   - Were your parents more likely to employ the Martin-Incognito suggested method of sibling conflict resolution (Give him a good punch and he’ll stop) or another? What was it? Do you remember an example? - or -
   - Who in your family or life is most likely to say, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go”? Would you go?

Now, take turns answering these questions. Not everyone needs to answer each question. Try not to be the person who is first to answer them all. 😊

Have each person open a Bible and have one person read Judges 4:1-15 to the group.

3. Why do the people of God so often fall into the Book of Judges pattern: do evil in the sight of the Lord, suffer, cry out to God, get rescued, repeat?
4. Where are we as a modern American church in that cycle? Where are you in that cycle in your life?
5. What are the facts we are told about Deborah? Who is she? What does she do?
6. When she sends for and tells Barak what the Lord has called him to do, why do you think he says, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go”?
7. Deborah may have been called to lead because no man would step up, just as Barak didn’t want to go it alone. (cf. Judges 5:7.) How can a Christian wife today lead in the home if needed and honor God and her husband?
8. Since Sisera leaves his chariot to flee, the Lord may have sent a storm to turn the ground to mud bogging down the chariots. Have you ever had the Lord help like that? Turn an obstacle into a blessing for you?
9. Which virtue that Deborah displays could you use more of and why?:
   1. Hears from and speaks for God.
   2. Settles disputes for others wisely.
   3. Defers and submits to authority.
   4. Encourages and influences others well.

Have another person read Judges 4:16-24 to the group.

10. Why does Jael turn on Sisera? What can be inferred of her nationality from vv. 11 & 17?
12. If Jael’s husband Heber had moved his family into Canaanite lands near Canaanite holy trees, we are meant to infer that he has turned from serving the Lord. Therefore Jael could be fighting to return her family to faithfulness with the Lord. How can someone in a similar household today do similarly?
13. The combination of the stories of Deborah and Jael could be said to show that a woman today can be a hero in the public square and/or in her home. A woman can be a Deborah and/or a Jael. A woman can serve God at work and at home. Do you agree? Has this been a challenge in your life?

Closing

14. Is there anything we didn’t discuss about this Sunday’s message that was interesting or important to you?
15. Go around the room and share any requests for which you would like prayer. Then, either take turns praying for these prayers, or invite a few who are comfortable with praying in public to pray for these requests.