

Deborah

An Agent of Change

Study Guide



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Part 1

Meet Deborah

Lesson 1

Change Agent

Main Scripture

Judges 4:4 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Objective

Learn areas in which we have been empowered to bring change through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Definitions

- Deborah – bee, word

Bees produce honey. God's Word is sweet like honey.

Psalms 119:103

103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Deborah was a woman of influence

- Wife – in her home
- Prophetess – in the church
- Judge – in the government

God will empower us to influence many areas of society through the Holy Spirit. This influence empowers us to bring change around us.

Bringing Change to our Homes

As Wives

1 Peter 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

Colossians 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

Titus 2:5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

As Husbands

Men have an important role as the head of the home.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Ephesians 5:25-26 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

Bringing Change in the Church

We should allow the Holy Spirit to use us to speak God's Word. We should preach the Bible. We should also hear what God is speaking and declare it to others.

Luke 2:36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Acts 21:9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Bringing Change in the Government

- Joseph in Egypt during famine – Genesis 41:37-46
- Esther was queen to save the Jews from destruction – Esther 4:14
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had decrees changed after not worshipping image and fiery furnace – Daniel 3:28-21
- Daniel in Babylon – Daniel 2:48-49; Daniel 5:11; Daniel 5:29; Daniel 6:2

The virtuous woman is an example of someone who brought change to many areas around her.

Proverbs 31:10-31

The Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses and people who bring change in every area of society.

Areas of society where we can bring Change:

- Homes
- Neighborhoods
- Churches
- Education
- Entertainment
- Business
- Government
- Nations

Question

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?



Part 2

Positioned to Bring Change

Lesson 2

Revelation and Refinement

Main Scripture

Judges 4:4 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

Objective

Learn the process of becoming a person of change. We will focus on revelation and refinement.

Definitions

- Lapidoth – lamp, enlightened, torch

Lapidoth, Deborah's husband, represents

- Light / lamp
- Revelation
- The fire of refinement

Lapidoth is a type of Christ. Jesus is light of the world. We reflect Jesus as lights in the world.

Jesus is the light.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 1:4-5

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

We are to shine as lights in the world.

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Isaiah 60:1-2 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Revelation

Light also represents having revelation. Revelation is having understanding that comes from the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Revelation comes from God's Word. We must study and understand the Word of God.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

We must have a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:11-12 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:17-18 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Fire of Refinement

This represents

- The trials and testing that we will go through
- Purification that burns away everything that is not like God

The results of the fire

- We become more like Jesus
- Holiness and righteousness
- Patience
- The fruit of the Spirit

James 1:3-4

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Isaiah 48:10 Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

Zechariah 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

Malachi 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

Isaiah 43:1-2

- 1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine
- 2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Jacob was born / created a supplanter, tricking his father for the birthright. God formed him through trials to become Israel (prince who prevails with God).

The fiery trials make us more like Jesus.

Question

What have you gone through to make you more like Jesus?

Lesson 3

Prayer and Intercession

Main Scriptures

Judges 4:5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Objective

Learn the process of becoming a person of change. Prayer and intercession are important to our development into change agents.

Meanings

- Ramah – lifted up
- Bethel – house of God
- Ephraim - fruitful

Ramah

This represents prayer and intercession. Prayer is communication with God. Intercession is praying for others and standing in the gap. We must be persistent in prayer.

Jeremiah 31:15 Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

7 And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Prayer consists of

- Talking to God
- Listening to God

Scriptures about prayer

Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Intercession

Standing in the gap for others through prayer.

Ezekiel 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

1 Timothy 2:1-3

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Listen to God

God wants to speak to us. We must tune our ears to hear Him.

John 10:4-5

4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

John 10:16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Matthew 17:4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Ways that God speaks

- Inner voice
- Dreams
- Visions
- Bible – written Word of God
- Other people
- Situations

Question

What are some of the ways God has spoken to you and what has He said?

Lesson 4

Encounters with God

Main Scripture

Judges 4:5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

Genesis 35:7 And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.

Objective

Learn the process of becoming a person of change. Worship and having an encounter with God are important.

Definitions

Bethel

House of God / a place of Worship

Abraham

Genesis 12:8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

- An altar is a place of surrender to God
- True worship requires sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2)
- Psalms 51:16-17 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Place of Jacob's dream of ladder. After the dream Jacob made a vow to the Lord.

Genesis 28:16-20

16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.

17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the

18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

Jacob had his name changed at Bethel

Genesis 35:1-15

Bethel represents a place where we encounter God, and our lives are changed. This happens when we enter His presence. Worship allows us to enter God's presence.

Psalms 27:4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

Psalms 95:2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

Psalms 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalms 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Luke 5:17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of

Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

We should live a life of worship that is in spirit and in truth.

John 4:21-23

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Question

What have you sacrificed to God in worship?

Lesson 5

Fruitfulness

Main Scriptures

Judges 4:5 And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Objective

Learn the process of becoming a person of change. Fruitfulness is important to our development into change agents.

Definition:

Ephraim – Fruitfulness

Fruitfulness represents

- Multiply
- Increase
- Produce / productivity
- Abundance

This has been God's desire since the beginning – natural and spiritual

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

We are to be fruitful in every season, even during hard times.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Jeremiah 17:8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Keys to fruitfulness

John 15:1-8

- We must remain humble to God as He forms our lives. The husbandman makes sure that we have what we need to be fruitful.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

- Realize that God purifies us so that we can bear more fruit

John 15:2-3

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

- Abide – remain

John 15:4

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

- Know that God is glorified when we bear fruit

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

God desires for us to be fruitful by multiplying what He has given us.

Parable of the talents.

Question

What ways can you be more fruitful for the kingdom of God?



Part 3

Time to Arise

Lesson 6

I am an Agent of Change

Main Scripture

Judges 5:7 The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.

Objective

Learn how to identify problems and arise to be the person who brings change.

Deborah saw a problem in her nation and arose to fix it. Deborah also saw a problem in Barak's life and arose to help him by

- Encouraging him to obey God
- Going with him into battle

Mothers are agents of change in the lives of their children. Children are natural and spiritual. Mothers change their children's lives by teaching them, encouraging them, and helping them. They are problem solvers.

2 Timothy 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

1 Timothy 5:2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

Titus 2:3-5

3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Deborah arose in the middle of darkness in her nation and individual lives. Israel was in darkness because the villages ceased. Barak was in darkness because of disobedience.

We are to arise in the middle of darkness to bring change. The world is in darkness because of sin, disobedience, lack of direction, problems, wars...

Isaiah 60:1-2

(1) Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

(2) For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Matthew 5:14-16

(14) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

(15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

(16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

We have been anointed to bring change

Isaiah 61:1-2

(1) The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

(2) To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Matthew 28:18-20

(18) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

(19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

(20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus has changed our lives so we can help change other people's lives.

Ways to bring change

- Prayer (James 5:13-16, 1 John 5:14)
- Preaching – Evangelism (Mark 16:16-18)
- Good works (Matthew 5:14)

Let us rise in words and deeds to bring change.

Question

What is the biggest problem that you see around you? What are some strategies that can be used to bring change?