HOMETOUCH®

Sunday, November 15, 2026

Scripture Reading: Judges 4:1-7

The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers. —Ralph Nader

History tends to celebrate its heroes and heroines: kings and queens, princes and princesses, warriors, commanders, people with medals and titles. But Judges 4 gives us a very different picture. Israel, once again, has fallen into trouble — oppressed for 20 years under the cruel power of King Jabin and his general, Sisera. The people cry out for help. And God answers. But not in the way anyone expected.

Instead of turning to a *he*-ro, God raises up a *she*-ro: *Deborah* — a prophet, a judge and a wise leader who sits beneath a palm tree settling disputes, offering guidance and listening for God's voice. Standing as a beacon of courage in a time when women were often sidelined, Deborah proves that God defines leadership by a person's calling, rather than cultural norms.

In today's reading, Deborah needs boots on the ground. So she sends for a trusted warrior, Barak, instructing him to gather troops and meet the enemy in battle. Barak hesitates. He will go — but only if Deborah comes with him. It's as if he needs to borrow her courage for the journey ahead. And Deborah, steady and strong, agrees.

This passage speaks a vital truth to believers of every age: God often works through people the world overlooks — like the aged, the marginalized, the poor — but God's strength isn't limited by human expectations. Our culture may overlook them, underestimate them or assume their "useful days" are past. But God doesn't think so. God calls, equips and strengthens in every season of life.

Deborah didn't lead from a palace or a battlefield. She led from a simple seat beneath a tree. Her ministry was one of wisdom, presence and listening — qualities many older believers embody more deeply than ever. Leadership isn't always about activity, running around all over the place issuing orders, directives and mandates. Sometimes it's about *discernment*. Sometimes it's about being willing to speak the truth when others hesitate.

Deborah reminds us that God's deliverance often begins with unlikely courage. And Barak reminds us that faithful people sometimes need encouragement to take the next step. Together, they show that God can work through partnerships, shared strength and voices that others might not expect.

God's work didn't wait for ideal circumstances or perfect she-roes or heroes. It simply waited for someone willing to say yes.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: God of Deborah and Barak, thank you for calling unlikely people to lead, guide and encourage. Use our gifts to bless others and honor you. Amen.

HOMETOUCH® Activity Page

Week of November 15, 2026

DAILY BIBLE READINGS
Sunday: Acts 27
Monday: Acts 28
Tuesday: Ephesians 4-5
Wednesday: Ephesians 6
Thursday: Colossians 1-2
Friday: Colossians 3-4
Saturday: Psalm 132

DOES IT ADD UP?

?	7	2
3	?	8
4	7	?

It's *N*-ovember! Can you name the answers to these geography questions where all answers begin with 'N'?

1. Its capital is Concord.
2. The tomb of this former resident of the isle of Elba is located in Paris.
3. It is bordered by California, Oregon, Utah, Arizona and Idaho.
4. The origin of this state's name derives from an Oto Indian word meaning "flat water."
5. It is the most densely populated city (of those over 100,000) in the United States.
6. At 4,130 miles, it is generally regarded as the world's longest river.
7. This notorious Roman emperor ruled in Rome during the lifetime of the apostle Paul.
8. It is the capital and largest city of Kenya in Africa.
9. It is called the country music capital of America.
10. It is often called Holland.
11. Jesus lived here as a boy.
12. This country is famous for its fjords.
13. These provinces are in eastern Canada.
14. This Massachusetts island used to be a whaling center.
15. The words "code talkers" are strongly associated with this Native American nation, and the bilingual speakers specially recruited during World War II to send tactical messages.

N-ovember: 1. New Hampshire; 2. Napoleon; 3. Nevada; 4. Nebraska; 5. New York City; 6. Nile; 7. Nero; 8. Nairobi; 9. Nashville; 10. Netherlands; 11. Nazareth; 12. Norway; 13. Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia; 14. Nantucket; 15. Navajo.

Does it add up? Solution: 072+398=470

NOVEMBER