

PVC SMALL GROUPS

# UNCOMMON

uncommon

FAITHFULNESS • STRENGTH • COURAGE

## WEEK 3: Uncommon Toughness (Deborah)

### CONNECT

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This week we continue our three-week series looking at women of the Bible who showed themselves to be UNCOMMON in a God honoring way. This week we look at Deborah.

- Who do you call to rescue you when things go wrong (Look back to your childhood if necessary)?

### DISCOVER

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In the book of Judges, we see a time in Israel's history just after they took possession of the promised land and before they had a king, that the Israelites went through cycles of following God, then turning away from God (Typically to worship false gods), suffering at the hands of an enemy or other crisis, crying out to God to be rescued, God sending someone to rescue them – typically a prophet who would call on Israel to repent and turn to God, the nation turning back to follow God for a time, then falling away from God again to repeat the cycle over and over.

Deborah is the only female judge. It would be unusual for a woman to have this type of leadership role at this time, which would have been further humiliation for Israel. Look for her toughness as you examine the example she sets not only for women, but for us all in living an uncommon life which honors God.

Read Judges 4:1-5:9 and answer a few questions together.

- What roles does Deborah have? Why might they have been listed in this particular order?
- How do you think Israel felt about having a woman as a judge, prophet, and deliverer?
- What may Barak have thought about Deborah's command from God to take 10,000 men in battle against Sisera's 900 chariots (Over 90,000 men)?
- What do we learn about Barak's faith through his reliance on Deborah going into battle with him, knowing that a woman would take credit for the victory God promised?
- What do we learn about Deborah from her willingness to lead Israel into battle? What examples do you see of Deborah's toughness?

## **GROW**

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**Big Idea: UNCOMMON TOUGHNESS is actively trusting God to fulfill His promises!**

- This story is the only mention of Deborah in the Bible. How does her story demonstrate uncommon toughness to you?
- How would you have responded to God's command to go into battle with such overwhelming odds against you? Who is the toughest person you know that honors God in their life?
- What unwinnable battle have you seen God win in your life? Who was there to help you in this battle?
- Why does God use the strength and toughness of others to help us fight the battles of life?
- In what areas are you tough enough to be used by God to help others?
- What weaknesses do you have that might cause you to look for someone else to fight your battles?

## **NEXT STEPS**

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Is there a battle you're facing that you're trying to be tough enough to handle on your own, but are falling short, and really need to cry out to God for help with?

- How can we go into battle with you through our actions and our prayers?