**Listening Guide**

**Deborah – a heart that leads**

**Deborah’s Story:**

* as a prophetess - called by God to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on His behalf to Israel
* as a judge - called by God to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Israel in military battle
* Period of the Judges:
  + From the time of Joshua’s death until the establishment of Saul as King of Israel
  + a time of great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + cyclical pattern

Rebellion/Sin – Punishment by God/slavery – Cry out to God – Deliverance – Rebellion/Sin

* Deborah’s roles – a ruler of Israel, wise counsellor, spiritual leader, mediator, warrior, wife & mother
* Her story is told in Judges 4 & 5

**Deborah’s Character – Qualities of a Leader:**

1. Wise, gracious \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God and others.

* The foundational characteristic of a leader is a servant’s heart is placing the needs of others \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their own.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in putting faith into action.

* If God is telling you to do something or go somewhere, despite your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, listen to His call.
* “God doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called.”
* Doing something out of your comfort zone to glorify Him can be terrifying, but faith was never promised to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* We may not always know what the road ahead will look like, but we only need to remember that God will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ guide us and lead the way.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* “God rarely uses anyone in a great way until He has taken that person through failure. Why? God wants His servants to be emptied of pride and ego, and able to empathize with the least and the last and the lost, the ones He seeks to save….The humble, the obscure, the self-effacing person – that’s the leader God uses.” Ray Stedman
* 2 Cor. 4:7
* recognized the contributions and worth of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + allow others to shine, grow and excel under your leadership

**A Warrior’s Armor:**

* Like Deborah, we are going to face battles in our lives, especially in the spiritual realm.
* Our adversary is Satan – “the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
* He takes what is bad and making it look good; what is false and making it look true; what is wrong and makes it look right; makes the ugly look beautiful, the hurtful look helpful and the painful look pleasant.
* Ephesians 6:13-17
  + put on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ armor
    - anything that we leave off, leaves us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Belt of Truth - represents our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for battle
  + Breastplate of Righteousness – the righteousness of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - We are not standing in our own deeds, thoughts or actions. (Isa. 64:6)
    - “Christ is the ground of your righteous standing before God, your acceptance before Him. If you are wearing that “breastplate,” you can rest secure that your heart, your emotions, and securely guarded and adequately protected against attack.” Ray Stedman
  + Shoes of Peace
    - Steady
    - Comes from the accepting Christ and obtaining \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God
  + Shield of Faith
    - We are not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
  + Helmet of Salvation
    - “When God controls the mind, Satan cannot lead the believer astray.” Warren Wiersbe
  + The sword of the Spirit – the Word of God
    - our only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ piece of armor
    - The Lord will fight for you – you need only to be still.

* When we…
  + give anything an influencing power over our lives but Jesus…
  + choose to ignore the protection He has provided for us…
  + choose to walk in our own strength rather than His…
  + THEN, living a Godly life will become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

**Application:**

* You are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so perfectly by an amazing God!
* 1 John 4:4
* When we allow God to be our strength and trust Him to win the battles we face against Satan, we will experience real \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

**…“because I am a child of God.”**

Heart After God

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June 2021

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