

## Hebrews 11:32, Judges 4

Barak

*A desperate cry ...*

I. A Man of Faith

II. The Women Behind Him

III. The God Above Him

*... a song of victory.*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. What was so special about Deborah?
2. Who commanded Barak to go to war?
3. Why do you think Barak wanted Deborah to go with him?
4. Who ends up killing the commander of the Canaanite army?
5. Who did Barak's faith rest in? A. Himself? B. Deborah? C. Jael? D. God

## **This is Faith?**

The next three subjects the author of Hebrews cites as people commended for their faith may be a bit surprising. I would venture to say that, left to ourselves, neither Barak, Jephthah or Samson would make it onto our Top 20 People of Faith list. But despite some awful decisions and bad behavior, we can know for certain that they were men of faith. How? By the very fact that under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures say so. It may take some digging into the equally inspired historical accounts of their lives to unearth evidence of the faith they had, but we know it is there. The most important thing to remember in each case is the fact that the faith that they did have did not rest in themselves, but in the Lord. In our narrative, Barak needed Deborah's prophetic presence and Jael's feline finesse, but God still used him as a faithful warrior to accomplish the victory. Deborah, Barak and Jael were all effective instruments in God's routing the enemy, but very appropriately, the battle hymn composed in response to the triumph gives "the Lord, the God of Israel" the glory above all.