



Meet **Jael**

Preppare
silencio



Read
lectio





King Jabin



CANAAN

Commander Sisera



CANAAN

King Jabin

Commander Sisera

Jael, a Kenite



CANAAN

King Jabin

Commander Sisera

Jael, a Kenite

Sisera's mom



CANAAN

King Jabin

Commander Sisera

Jael, a Kenite

Sisera's mom

ISRAEL
Judge Deborah





CANAAN

King Jabin

Commander Sisera

Jael, a Kenite

Sisera's mom

ISRAEL
Judge Deborah
Commander Barak



The stars fought from heaven; from their courses
they fought against Sisera

The stars fought from heaven; from their courses
they fought against Sisera

Then loud beat the horses' hoofs with the galloping,
galloping of his steeds

The stars fought from heaven; from their courses
they fought against Sisera

Then loud beat the horses' hoofs with the galloping,
galloping of his steeds

Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, of tent-dwelling
women most blessed

The stars fought from heaven; from their courses
they fought against Sisera

Then loud beat the horses' hoofs with the galloping,
galloping of his steeds

Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, of tent-dwelling
women most blessed

She struck Sisera a blow

He sank, he fell, he lay still

He sank, he fell, he lay still

The mother of Sisera gazed through the lattice

He sank, he fell, he lay still

The mother of Sisera gazed through the lattice

“Are they not finding and dividing the spoil?”

He sank, he fell, he lay still

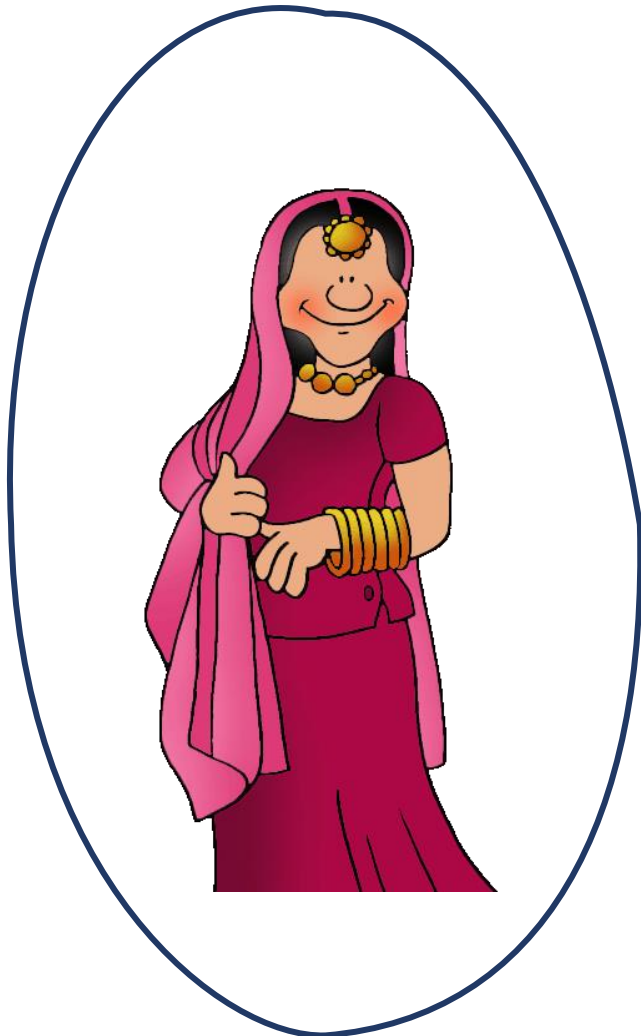
The mother of Sisera gazed through the lattice

“Are they not finding and dividing the spoil?”

“So perish all your enemies, O Lord! But may your friends be like the sun as it rises in its might.”

*What do you see
or hear?*

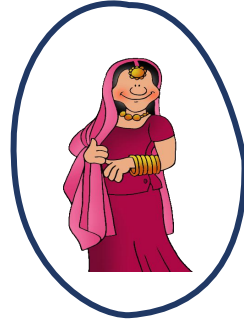
Meditate
meditatio





JAEL

**Not described as mother;
wife of Heber**



DEBORAH

**Mother of Israel; wife of
Lappidoth**



**SISERA'S
MOM**

Unnamed herself



J A E L

**Not described as mother;
wife of Heber**

In a tent



D E B O R A H

**Mother of Israel; wife of
Lappidoth**

On the battlefield?



**SISERA'S
MOM**

Unnamed herself

**Closed up in a house with
her maids**



JAEL

**Not described as mother;
wife of Heber**

In a tent

Wife (but also campmaker)



DEBORAH

**Mother of Israel; wife of
Lappidoth**

On the battlefield?

Warriror



**SISERA'S
MOM**

Unnamed herself

**Closed up in a house with
her maids**

Submissive



So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin

So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin

At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of
Lappidoth, was judging Israel.

So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin

At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of
Lappidoth, was judging Israel.

and I will give him into your hand

So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin

At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of
Lappidoth, was judging Israel.

and I will give him into your hand

“For the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a
woman.”

Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away
on foot

Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away
on foot

Jael came out to meet Sisera

Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot

Jael came out to meet Sisera

“Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty.”

Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away
on foot

Jael came out to meet Sisera

“Please give me a little water to drink, for I am
thirsty.”

until it went down into the ground



Meet **Jael**



Themes at play in the book of Judges, and exemplified in this story:

1. Gender/role reversal



**Themes at play in the book of Judges,
and exemplified in this story:**

- 1. Gender/role reversal**
- 2. Not safe in own home**



Themes at play in the book of Judges, and exemplified in this story:

1. Gender/role reversal
2. Not safe in own home
3. Moral ambiguity



Themes at play in the book of Judges, and exemplified in this story:

1. Gender/role reversal
2. Not safe in own home
3. Moral ambiguity
4. Don't read into the story too much!



Themes at play in the book of Judges, and exemplified in this story:

1. Gender/role reversal
2. Not safe in own home
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4. Don't read into the story too much!
5. The human body is a metaphor for Israel's unfaithfulness



Themes at play in the book of Judges, and exemplified in this story:

1. Gender/role reversal
2. Not safe in own home
3. Moral ambiguity
4. Don't read into the story too much!
5. The human body is a metaphor for Israel's unfaithfulness
6. God will use the least likely, the overlooked, the marginalized, and the unqualified to meet out God's will.

RITUALS OF HOSPITALITY

A guest asks to come in.

If the invitation was offered,
safety was expected.

Food and drink are
to be offered.

And you shouldn't
drive a tent peg into
your sleeping guest.



**FEAR
NOT**





**May I have
some water?**

Feminist theology says
(1) God created all
genders to be equal and
(2) seeks to raise
Scriptural discourse
point out where this is
seen and where (and
why) it isn't.



Trauma informed: Women with a violent history hear this story differently than women without trauma. Violence is—for all women—embedded in our worldview at some level.





What are we
supposed to
do with this?



Prayer
oratio

Contemplate
contemplatio

Violence is contrary to God's intentions for the world. This reality demands the response of the church in these days of increasing danger to vulnerable peoples—children, youth, women, disabled and the elderly. Interpreting biblical teachings and responding to the leadership of Jesus Christ in our lives calls the church to a pastoral and moral response through an active program of advocacy and resourcing for transformation.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/padvn/>

When is doing the right thing
the wrong thing to do?

And when is doing the wrong
thing the right thing to do?



