



## **Make Way**

**Group Guide - Week 1** (for the week of June 6th)

### **Make Way Series Overview**

Difficulty is a part of the Christian life. In fact, some would say it's essential. However, essential doesn't mean pleasant. No one likes the bad times. In order for us to connect with what God's up to in the hard times, we must fight passivity and pursue activity. God does not abandon us in difficulty, he asks us to join him there. And, Jesus encourages us, through his example, that when the deck is stacked against us healthy action is possible. In this series, we will discover together how to make a way.

**Big Idea:** Joining God in difficulty is possible.

**Scripture:** Proverbs 19:2, Psalm 138:8, Isaiah 46:9-1, Judges 4:6-7, Judges 4:9, Judges 4:14, 2 Corinthians 12:9

## **Week 1 Recap:**

*If you missed Sunday's message here is a brief recap:*

An unlikely candidate for the job, she is still remembered today for her impeccable performance. A historic way-maker, she confronted and counseled the commander of an army. This was no small task. In a series of difficult moments, Deborah took a series of healthy actions that helped save a nation from disaster. In the first week of this series, we will see how.

### **Key takeaways & action items:**

1. Difficulty is part of the Christian life
2. Way Makers move toward conflict.
3. Way Maker's tell the truth.
4. Way Maker's actions consistently point to God.
5. God empowers the not enough (2 Corinthians 19:9)
6. You don't need a big resume to qualify as a Way Maker.
7. The bible is full of disqualified people that God used in big ways, your time is now-too!

### **GROUP DISCUSSION:**

1. Read Proverbs 19:21, Psalm 138:8 and Isaiah 46:9-11. The question is not IF God will come through during hard times but HOW will he come through.
  - a. Do you have examples of times when you questioned IF God would show up? What was the outcome?
  - b. What about HOW questions? Were his plans revealed to you when the way you questioned the plan changed?
2. How would your life be different if you started asking HOW instead of IF questions?

*Leaders- here are some Examples of IF questions*

- i. Is this even going to work out?*
- ii. Where are you at, God?*
- iii. God, do you even see what is happening?*
- iv. Am i so terrible that God is unwilling to help me?*

*Leaders- Examples of HOW*

- v. How can i see you in this, God?*
- vi. Help me know and understand where to join you?*
- vii. How can I learn from what's going on around me?*
- viii. How can I join you, God?*

3. On Sunday we discussed how to be a Way Maker in difficult times. Read Judges 4:6-7. On this specific day, the problem didn't come to Deborah, she had to go to the problem. She had to move towards conflict.

- a. Are you someone who feels comfortable moving towards conflict?
  - b. What are healthy ways you move towards it?
  - c. What are the reasons you feel uncomfortable with conflict?
  - d. Do you believe you should move toward conflict if it's a Kingdom issue?
4. Read Judges 4:9  
Barak put conditions on his compliance, so Deborah has to tell the hard truth that he will not receive the honor he thinks he will get. Deborah had to tell a hard truth.
- a. Do you have examples of sharing hard truths with people around you? Maybe those who aren't in your inner circle that fully trust you?
  - b. Barak said he'd be happy to do what God wants, but under conditions- does this seem familiar to you?
  - c. Do you have examples of times when you put conditions on your obedience to God? (past or present)
5. Read Judges 4:14 Way Makers cannot take the credit, they consistently point their accomplishments to God.
- a. When we are fully obedient to God, and he comes through in a big way, what are ways that we can give credit to God?
6. Way Maker is not a easy title to carry. You have to move toward conflict, tell hard truths, and consistently point all credit to God.
- a. Right now, do you consider yourself a way maker by these definitions?
  - b. If not, are you willing to give up potential influence and friendships with the people around you to be a Way Maker?

### Weekly Resources

- Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. Proverbs 19:21 (ESV)
- The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands. Psalm 138:8 (ESV)
- I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose, calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; **I have purposed, and I will do it.** Isaiah 46:9-11 (ESV)
- "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: Call out 10,000 warriors from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun at Mount Tabor. And I will call out Sisera, commander of Jabin's army, along with his chariots and

warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will give you victory over him." Judges 4:6-7 (NLT)

- You will receive no honor in this venture, for the Lord's victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman. Judges 4:9 (NLT)
- And Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which **the Lord has given Sisera into your hand**. Does not the Lord go out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. Judges 4:14 (ESV)
- "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)