

## WEEK OF JULY 18: PRAISE SONGS

### READING

Monday | Deuteronomy 31:23

Tuesday | Isaiah 41:10

Wednesday | Psalm 118:14-16

Thursday | Philippians 1:27

Friday | Judges 5:1-5

### WELCOME

This week we study the worship song of Deborah in Judges, which is a song of God's empowerment. Either individually or as a group think through the question: when have you felt empowered to do something? When have you felt God empowering you?

# The BIG Story Playlist

This summer we're hitting "play" on worship as we take a road trip back through the BIG Story of the Bible.



### WORSHIP AND WORD (Psalm 9:7-11)

This summer in groups and individually we invite you to worship and study the word using a form of scripture meditation called the *Lectio Divina* (Divine Reading). As a group or individually read the scripture three times meditatively with a few minutes of silence in between. Then journal or talk about what God has impressed upon you through the reading.

#### Preparation

Before reading spend a few moments in silence inviting God's Spirit to guide you as you meditate on the Word.

#### First Reading

Read **Psalm 9:7-11** slowly and out loud if you can, lingering over the words and so that they resonate in your heart. Listen especially for any words or phrases that catch your attention or 'pop out' to you. After you have read spend a few moments thinking of the words and phrases that especially caught your attention and what God might be saying to you.

#### Second Reading

Read the scripture again, savoring the words, and again listening for those phrases and words that especially resonate to you. Listen for any invitation God might be giving to you those words. After you are done reading, spend a few moments pondering the word, like Mary, and gently exploring the ramifications of God's invitation and what God might be saying to you through the passage.

#### Third Reading

Read the scripture again and after you are finished spend a few moments in prayer, asking God through His Holy Spirit to help you remember and apply what you have learned. There is no right or wrong way to do this... the important thing is that you respond truthfully and authentically. What feelings has the text aroused in you? Where are you resistant? etc... bring your thoughts to God.

#### Questions

- What stood out in this reading? What did the Holy Spirit teach you?
- Where is the invitation? Where is the challenge?
- What struck you in the sermon on this passage?
- What is one response that God is leading you to this week?

### PLAYLIST: SUMMER ART RECOMMENDATION

Makoto Fujimura is an artist that combines Japanese art techniques with a Western approach to abstraction. Robert Kushner in *Art in America* wrote that Makoto was forging a new kind of art about hope, healing, redemption, and refuge while maintaining visual sophistication and intellectual integrity. Check out his series "Four Holy Gospels" at <https://makotofujimura.com/art/portals/four-holy-gospels>