

to the Lord God of Israel." Her deep trust in God established confidence. Woman has a great sphere in religion. She has keen insight for spiritual things. Her experiences as a mother teach her dependence upon God. It is sometimes said disparagingly that there are more women than men in the churches.

It would be calamitous if the reverse were true; for, however devoted a Christian the father may be, the mother has the greatest opportunity of giving life ideals to the children in the home. For centuries, women have been rendering consecrated service to Christ in our churches, and it is inevitable that they will take a larger share in church government. What has happened politically will be repeated ecclesiastically. Women's religious organizations are conducted efficiently. Many women have unique gifts in public prayer.

One of the foremost preachers in Old London is a woman. Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frances Willard, Mary Slessor of Calabar, have shown what women can accomplish by gifted pen, persuasive speech and ministering love. Mission fields in heathen lands afford woman an equality of Christian service that cannot be long delayed at home.

But no matter what opportunities for service await woman in war, politics and religion, men will continue to hold that her highest field is the home. Woman there reveals her unique tenderness and unselfishness. Deborah was a noble heroine, but we would not desire her as a universal type. Her war song is thrilling, but we find a nobler music in the Magnificat of Mary, whose supreme honor it was to be the mother of Jesus Christ.

FOR TEACHERS IN THE ADULT DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Adult Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY of the PATHFINDER.

At the beginning of the lesson, let the teacher point out that we have really two accounts of the victory of Israel over the army of Sisera,—the one in our lesson passage, and the one in ch. 5. The latter is given in the form of a triumph song, and is an earlier account than the one written by the historian in ch. 4. Remind the class that the triumph song is regarded as one of the finest to be found in any early literature, and that "its style (though many of the words are now very obscure) is typical of the best Hebrew poetry." Then turn to the lesson passage:

I. *Deborah and Barak*, vs. 4-9. Refer briefly to the first three verses of the chapter. Show how the case of Deborah proves that the participation of women in public life is not so modern a thing as we sometimes imagine. Can the class give other illustrations of the service of women in the sphere of national leadership? Show how any person who decided disputes, as Deborah did, would naturally come to be looked to for guidance and leadership. In her position as prophetess and leader, what does Deborah call upon the military leader, Barak, to do? Use the map to indicate the location of Mount Tabor and of the Kishon river. What tribute does Barak pay to the leadership of Deborah?

How was the prophecy of v. 9 fulfilled? Remind the class that while, in this account, only two of the tribes are called upon, in the next chapter as many as six of them join Barak. Point out, however, that it was Naphtali and Zebulun, bordering on the plain, who were chiefly concerned.

II. *Preparations for battle*, vs. 10-13. The Israelites "went up" to Mount Tabor, which gave them a splendid position from which to make a charge down upon the plain. Show how the reference to Heber the Kenite is explained by what is to follow in the later part of the chapter, vs. 17-22. The Canaanites, operating in the plain, had use for chariots, but the Israelites, who at this time occupied the hill country, had no chariots, and did not have them until the time of Solomon.

III. *The defeat of Sisera*, vs. 14-16. Remind the class that the plain of Esdraelon, the scene of this struggle, is one of the great battle-fields of history. It comes in like a wedge from the sea-coast almost to the Jordan and is surrounded by hills. The army of Barak would dash down from the hills upon the enemy who would be driven back upon the banks of the Kishon. Point out that, after the defeat of his army, Sisera fled north-