



## A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of August 5, 2018

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a “worship discussion” guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

### Numbers 36:1-13 “Final Inheritance”

This week, Kevin Greene preached on [Numbers 36:1-13](#).

#### The Book of Numbers is described as a warning in the Old & New Testament

We struggle with unbelief & idolatry

“For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown **in the wilderness**. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. **Do not be idolaters** as some of them were.” (1 Corinthians 10:1-7)

“Some idolize wealth; and Christ calls such the slaves of Mammon. Others idolize and live for ideas, ideals, a cause, power, a wife, children, country, beauty, and many other things besides. The self-contradictory lust of sinful man to have something he can worship and master at the same time takes countless forms, each exhibiting the same pathetic ambivalence. Trying to rule what one serves—being enslaved by what one tries to rule—**trying to play God to one’s gods, and ending up the captive of them all**—that is idolatry, in all its forms. It is a satanic parody of man’s original relation to his Maker, and a source of endless misery to all its practitioners.” (*J. I. Packer*)

#### The Case

Continuing the case of Zelophahad’s daughters ([Numbers 27:1-11](#)).

Basically, if a father has no sons, the inheritance can go to the daughters (2). However, there is still a threat of inheritance loss for the tribe of Manasseh. If they are married to any of the sons of the other tribes of the children of Israel, then their inheritance will be transferred (3). The Jubilee law (Leviticus 25) would not protect them. Land would permanently transfer to the husband’s tribe (4). So, marry within the tribe of Manasseh (6).

#### An Epilogue

Anticlimactic? God’s ordinary actions don’t impress us.

“Unresting, unshaking, and silent as light...” ([Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise](#))

What is this case telling us about God? Lest we think of this as a happy ending where Israel will now do the right thing, Zelophahad’s daughters show us that the Lord will use your suffering and weakness to prove Himself. Behind this case is a record of God’s faithfulness.

#### This Case Shows Us That...

##### 1.) God is in the Cycle-Breaking Business

In contrast to 38 years of wandering, unbelief, rebellion and idolatry...

When threatened (for a second time), Zelophahad's daughters & tribal leaders did not mount a rebellion as the first generation of Israel did (multiple times).

The Lord is doing something new in this generation.

## 2.) God is at Work in His People

Zelophahad's daughters (10) & their representatives (2-4) have this conviction They come with vulnerability, humility & confidence that is rooted in identity as the Lord's own.

## 3.) God is For Us

Why can we be so bold to believe that He is at work?

"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" ([Romans 8:31-32](#))

**Trust God and His Word.** Submit to the One Who submitted to the Cross for you.

## Going Deeper in God's Worship

Reflect on the text together. [Hear the sermon here.](#)

- 1.) What is true about God's character, promises or work?
- 2.) What does the Scripture teach you about yourself or others?
- 3.) Are you encouraged to follow Jesus in His mission? How?

Reflect on the whole of Sunday's liturgy together. Locate this week's [Order of Worship here.](#)

- 1.) Was there an element of the worship service that you would like to share with the group?
  - A Scripture verse that was read?
  - A prayer that was prayed?
  - A song that was sung?
  - A sacrament that was administered?
  - A way that glory was given to God?
  - A way that someone encouraged you?
- 2.) Did the Holy Spirit convict, change, or encourage you in any way you wish to share with the group?
- 3.) Is Jesus leading you or the group to take a specific risk to minister the Good News to Richmond? Your neighbors? Your co-workers? Your family and friends?

## Going Further in Christ's Mission

- 1.) Have the Scripture text open in front of you as a guide to your prayers.
  - Spend time thanking God and giving Him glory.
- 2.) Ask the Lord for vision, strength and faith as followers of Jesus Christ.
  - Count on the work of the Holy Spirit for change.
  - Ask for God's forgiveness and grace to repent of sin and trust Jesus.
  - Pray for the world, our country, Richmond, and the Church.
  - Pray for members of your group, family members, or co-workers, neighbors and friends.

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, [kevin@wepc.org](mailto:kevin@wepc.org)  
To hear sermons and access past study guides visit [www.wepc.org/archivedsermons](http://www.wepc.org/archivedsermons)