

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Bible Study Notes

Intro Question: What's one thing you have inherited?

Pray: For God to help us understand the book of Numbers for our lives.

Read: Numbers 27

Context:

- Why does God tell Moses to take another census? What has happened?

What does the text say & mean (observe/comprehend):

- What is the concern of Zelophehad's daughters? What's so significant about the inheritance? What does/doesn't this say about God, women and society?
- Why do God's people need leadership? How does this speak to the nature of God & the nature of people? How is Joshua to lead (v21)?

How does the text point forward to Jesus:

- Consider John 10:7-18

What does the text mean for us (apply):

- What is our inheritance and how we do receive it? See Ephesians 1:11-18 & Revelation 21
- How does our passage help us think about Church leadership? What makes a good shepherd? Consider also 1 Peter 5:1-4.
- What are you looking forward to in the new creation?

Pray: that Jesus would lead us into our shared inheritance.

Homework: Read Numbers 26-30

Remind: Village Celebration 18th September.

Praying to see 10% of the northern suburbs in gospel-centred churches & 250 by 2030 at Village Church who grow, gather, give & go, in love & joy to the glory of God

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Numbers is the fourth book in what is called the “Pentateuch”, the five books of the Torah. These serves as the foundational books of the people of Israel, giving context to their relationship with Yahweh, the God who is and who created all things.

Numbers takes place in the Wilderness. Between the Exodus, where God rescues Israel out of slavery to Egypt, and the Promised Land, where Israel will experience the fullness of God’s blessings. After rescuing Israel, Yahweh covenanted with Israel. He promised them blessing but in response requires obedience to his good law. The question of Numbers is, will Israel trust God and obey? Or will they rebel as they have already done in Exodus and Leviticus. And, how will God respond if they do?

For Christians today. We too live in the wilderness. In the time between our salvation by faith in Christ, and our enjoying the fullness of eternity in the promised land of the new creation. We too are called to obey Christ by faith.

Context:

- **Why does God tell Moses to take another census? What has happened?**

The generation that were adults (over 20 years of age) when God rescued Israel from Egypt have all (bar Moses), perished in the wilderness. They did not enter the Promised Land. This census is almost like a ‘let’s start again’ moment, similar in vibe to after the flood of Noah.

What does the text say & mean (observe/comprehend):

- **What is the concern of Zelophehad’s daughters? What’s so significant about the inheritance? What does/doesn’t this say about God, women and society?**

This moment is not primarily about women, though it does say something about gender. What matters here most is God’s people’s inheritance in the promised land - that is the major concern. However, this text also two things about gender. Firstly, a regard for women that is very rare in the ancient world and secondly, that gender or oppression is not God’s primary lense.

- **Why do God’s people need leadership? How does this speak to the nature of God & the nature of people? How is Joshua to lead (notice v21)?**

God is a God of order. This is exemplified in the nature of humanity. Just as sheep need a Shepherd to thrive, so do people. However, God’s Shepherd is not to be ‘autonomous’, instead he must follow and be guided himself by God’s will. In this case, before the writing of the Scriptures, God speaks through the High Priest & the ‘Urim’ (Google for more info on the Urim & Thummim).

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How does the text point forward to Jesus:

- **Consider John 10:7-18**

Jesus is the Good Shepherd of the sheep. He leads his sheep into green pastures by laying his life down for them.

What does the text mean for us (apply):

- **What is our inheritance and how we do receive it? See Ephesians 1:11-18 & Revelation 21**

Our inheritance has been purchased for us by the work of Christ. By grace we get to share in his inheritance. This inheritance is eternal life with all God's people in the new creation. It is the blessed rest, the green pasture, where we will see Christ face to face and spend eternity glorifying him.

- **How does our passage help us think about Church leadership? What makes a good shepherd? Consider also 1 Peter 5:1-4.**

Jesus appoints leaders of God's people who are to be Shepherd's like him. You can note the different qualities mentioned in 1 Peter 5. God's shepherd's don't do what they think is good, they follow the model of Jesus and like Joshua, do/teach the Sheep God's will.

- **What are you looking forward to in the new creation?**

Encourage the group to joyfully reflect on the inheritance we look forward to.