

Family • Faith • Holy Spirit • Mission

# Small Group Preview

Jesus community where **God's kingdom is realized on this earth**

**2025. 5. 4, Bothell Main Campus 2pm**



시애틀형제교회  
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEATTLE

## To the Small Group Leaders

# Church Uplifting Church

We pray that God will pour out His love and blessings on your household who, with the heart of Jesus our Chief Shepherd, watches over and cares for others. In 2025, our church has proclaimed, "Mission On Plus, a Church Uplifting Church." Now, our church not only goes out to the nations of the world to proclaim the gospel, but also moves forward in the ministry of equipping disciples so that many churches may rise and proclaim the gospel together. Toward this goal, our church served three churches through a campaign this past April. We pray that, by God's grace and power, these three churches will be established as healthy churches.

Community Church of Seattle will hold a conference from Tuesday, May 20 to Thursday, May 22. While the pandemic caused a pause in holding conferences, we now rise again to become a church that serves other churches. Many pastors and church leaders from across the U.S. have registered for the conference. They want to see, hear, and apply the great works God has done at our church. Through this conference, we will testify to the works of God and give glory to God together with the attendees.

As we prepare for the conference, above all, we ask that all of our congregation prepare together in prayer so that God will pour out His abundant grace. In addition, as much as possible, you can serve in various areas such as housing guests, preparing food, serving, washing dishes, providing airport rides, and facility support. Many pastors and church leaders who have attended past conferences have given feedback that they were deeply moved by the serving volunteers. Through this upcoming conference as well, we look forward in faith to bringing joy to God's heart and delivering wisdom and inspiration to the leadership of other churches. Let us join hands and run together for this work that pleases God.

Servant in Christ, **James Kwon**



Embracing the members with a shepherd's heart

# Small Group Preview

Small Group Usage

| Living Life Weekly Bible Study 2, May 4th Scripture, P184 |

## Ice Breakers

As a Christian, when was a moment you thought, "I shouldn't have gotten angry then"?

## Examine God's Word

Read Numbers 20:1–13 together. Circle or underline repeated words or expressions that carry important meaning.

## Understand Setting

Numbers 20 is an event that took place in the first month of the 40th year after the Israelites left Egypt. About two years after the Exodus, the Israelites had sent spies into the land of Canaan. Those spies feared the descendants of Anak who lived in Canaan and failed to trust in God. As a result, most of the first generation died in the wilderness, and now only the second generation of the Exodus remains. The Israelites arrive again at Kadesh, a place of past failure. Despite the time that has passed, the complaints of the Israelites continue in today's passage. The Israelites grumbled to Moses and Aaron about the lack of water. Instead of asking for what they needed, they blamed others and compared their situation, voicing complaints. In this context, we examine the command that God gave.

## Meditate the Text

**1-1** **Observation** What did the Israelites say to Moses and Aaron when they gathered because there was no water? (Verses 3–5)

.....

**1-2** **Application** Share what kind of words you usually say when you don't have what you want or need, or when you're facing difficulties.

.....

**2-1** **Observation** How did Moses speak and act differently from what God commanded, and what result did it bring? (Verses 10–12; cf. 7–8)

---

**2-2** **Application** When do I feel a surge of temper? Share how you can reveal God's holiness in your life and community.

---

### **Review the Text**

As the Israelites passed the 40th year since coming out of Egypt, they faced hardship. When there was no water in the wilderness for a long time, they shifted the blame not only to Moses and Aaron but also poured out their complaints toward God. In response, Moses, unable to control his temper, expressed anger in a way that went against God's word and character. As a result, Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land that God had spoken of. No matter how unfair something may feel, actions that damage God's glory through anger cannot be justified. Even in moments of frustration, we must pause, endure a little longer, and look to our holy God with patience.

### **Pray through the Text**

- 1 Grant me a heart that fears only the great and mighty God.
- 2 Even when I face difficult situations, help me to control my emotions and anger, and grant me patience.



## Ice Breakers

As a Christian, when was a moment you thought, "I shouldn't have gotten angry then"?

## Examine God's Word

Read Numbers 20:1-13 together. Circle or underline the repeated words or expressions that carry important meaning.

NIV	GOD'S WORD	ESV
<p>1 In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.</p> <p>2 Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron.</p> <p>3 They quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD!</p> <p>4 Why did you bring the LORD's community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here?</p> <p>5 Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!"</p> <p>6 Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them.</p> <p>7 The LORD said to Moses,</p>	<p>1 In the first month the whole community of Israel came into the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. Miriam died and was buried there.</p> <p>2 Since the community was without water, they came together to confront Moses and Aaron.</p> <p>3 The people complained to Moses and said, "If only we had died when the other Israelites died in the LORD's presence!</p> <p>4 Did you bring the LORD's assembly into this desert just to have us and our animals die here?</p> <p>5 Why did you make us leave Egypt and bring us into this terrible place? This is no place to plant crops. Even figs, grapes, and pomegranates won't grow here. And there's no water to drink!"</p> <p>6 Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting. Immediately, they bowed with their faces touching the ground, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them.</p> <p>7 The LORD said to Moses,</p>	<p>1 And the people of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh. And Miriam died there and was buried there.</p> <p>2 Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.</p> <p>3 And the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD!</p> <p>4 Why have you brought the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle?"</p> <p>5 And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink."</p> <p>6 Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them,</p> <p>7 and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,</p>

8 "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink."

9 So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he commanded him.

10 He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?"

11 Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

13 These were the waters of Meribah,[a] where the Israelites quarreled with the LORD and where he was proved holy among them.

8 "Take your staff, then you and your brother Aaron gather the community. Right before their eyes, tell the rock to give up its water. In this way you will give the community water from the rock for them and their animals to drink."

9 Moses took his staff out of the tent in the LORD's presence as he had been commanded.

10 Then Moses and Aaron assembled the community in front of the rock and said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring water out of this rock for you?"

11 Moses raised his hand and hit the rock twice with the staff. Water came pouring out, and all the people and their animals drank.

12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "You didn't trust me! You didn't show the Israelites how holy I am! So you will not bring this congregation into the land I'm giving them."

13 This was the oasis of Meribah [Complaining], where the Israelites complained about the LORD and where he showed them he was holy.

8 "Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle."

9 And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?"

11 And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock.

12 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them."

13 These are the waters of Meribah,[a] where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and through them he showed himself holy.

## Understand Setting

Numbers 20 describes an event that occurred in the first month of the 40th year after the Israelites left Egypt. About two years after the Exodus, the Israelites sent spies into the land of Canaan. These spies, fearing the descendants of Anak living in Canaan, did not trust in God. As a result, most of the first generation died in the wilderness, and now only the second generation of the Exodus remains. The Israelites arrive again at Kadesh, a place where they had failed long ago. Despite the passing of time, the complaints of the Israelites continue in today's passage. The Israelites grumbled to Moses and Aaron about the lack of water. Instead of asking for what they needed, they blamed others and voiced their complaints. In this context, we look at the command that God gave.

## Meditate the Text

**1-1** **Observation** What did the Israelites say to Moses and Aaron when they gathered because there was no water? (Verses 3–5)

They said, “If only we had died when our brothers died before the Lord! Why did you bring the Lord’s assembly into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? Why did you make us come up out of Egypt to this terrible place?”

**Explanation** Numbers 20:1 begins with the phrase “in the first month,” referring to the first month of the 40th year since the Israelites came out of Egypt. During this month, the Israelites were to commemorate God’s deliverance by observing the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread—festivals established to remember how God spared them during the final plague in Egypt, the death of the firstborn. At this time, the Israelites should have been worshipping with gratitude. The text notes that the Israelites arrived at Kadesh, a place that recalls the events of Numbers 13. In that chapter, they had come to Kadesh Barnea and sent out twelve spies into the land of Canaan. However, because of a faithless report, they rejected God’s promise. As a result, they were condemned to wander and be trained in the wilderness for 38 years until that generation passed away. Now, the Israelites are once again passing through Kadesh, the very place tied to their past unbelief and failure.

**1-2** **Application** Share what kind of words you usually say when you don’t have what you want or need, or when you’re going through a hard time.

**Explanation** When we encounter difficulties, we experience pain or stress in every aspect of our being. Each of us responds in our own way. In Numbers 20, the Israelites respond in an extreme manner: “If only we had died... Are we to die here?” Instead of resorting to such extreme expressions, we must learn to express our emotions honestly and maturely.

**2-1** **Observation** How did Moses speak and act differently from what God commanded, and what result did it bring? (Verses 10–12; cf. 7–8)

Moses said to the Israelites, “Shall we bring water for you out of this rock?” (verse 10) and struck the rock twice with his staff. As a result, Moses and Aaron were not allowed to enter the land of Canaan because they did not demonstrate God’s holiness before the Israelites.

**Explanation** Having heard God's command, Moses and Aaron expressed their anger before the congregation and struck the rock twice with their staff (verses 10, 11). From the context, it seems that Moses and Aaron openly displayed their anger before the people. In Exodus 17, there is also a record of the Israelites thirsting for water. At that time, Moses acted according to God's command. By obeying, Moses became the instrument through which God answered the prayers of the Israelites. In this incident, however, Moses and Aaron should have demonstrated humility before God and revealed His character. Moses' actions in this instance tarnished God's glory. As a result, Moses and Aaron were not allowed to enter the Promised Land.

**2-2 Application** **When do I feel a surge of temper? Share how you can reveal God's holiness in your life and community.**

**Explanation** Moses, hearing the complaints of the people, could not control his rising anger. He expressed his anger before God and the people. Despite serving God and the people for a long time, his anger prevented him from receiving God's reward. We must control our anger before God and others by fearing God. Let's discuss how I can express and resolve my anger appropriately.

## Review the Text

---

The Israelites, after 40 years since leaving Egypt, encountered difficulties. When there was no water in the wilderness for a long time, they blamed not only Moses and Aaron but also God, pouring out their complaints. In response, Moses, unable to control his temper, expressed anger that was contrary to God's word and character. As a result, Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land that God had promised. No matter how unfair it may seem, we cannot justify actions that damage God's glory through anger. Even in moments of anger, we must endure, look to the holy God, and move forward with patience.

## Pray through the Text

---

- 1 Grant me a heart that fears only the great and mighty God.
- 2 Even when I face difficult situations, help me to control my emotions and anger, and grant me patience.

## Word Studies

**Verse 1a** **In the 1st Month** The Israelites entered the 40th year since leaving Egypt. In that first month, the Israelites observed the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread to commemorate God's salvation. These festivals were instituted to remember how God spared them during the final plague in Egypt, the death of the firstborn. As they passed through this time, the Israelites were to worship with gratitude.

**Verse 1b** **They stayed at Kadesh** It is recorded that the Israelites arrived at Kadesh, which reminds us of the event recorded in Numbers 13. In Numbers 13, the Israelites arrived at Kadesh Barnea and sent twelve spies into the land of Canaan. They confirmed that the land was indeed rich with fruit and grain. However, when they saw the descendants of Anak living in Canaan, they became discouraged. As a result, they gave a negative report, saying that the land was like a wilderness, and the Israelites spent 38 years being trained in the wilderness, with that generation passing away. Now, the Israelites are once again passing through Kadesh, the place of their past unbelief and failure. "The month in which they should have been celebrating the Passover and the Festival of the Unleavened Bread in the Promised Land. Instead they found themselves back at Kadesh after some forty years of wilderness nomadic shepherding, and again they grumbled about their water supply as that first generation had done soon after they had crossed the Red Sea (Exod 15:23-26; 17:1-7)." \_R. Dennis Cole, Numbers, NAC, 280-281.

**Verse 2** **The congregation gathered to Moses and Aaron because there was no water** According to the original language, the fact that the congregation gathered to Moses and Aaron suggests that they came together with the sense of "against." This implies not only a rebellion against the leaders but also an opposition to God.

**Verse 6** **Moses and Aaron... came to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell facedown** From a grammatical perspective, this expression suggests that as soon as Moses and Aaron heard the complaints of the congregation, they immediately went to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell down. This implies that the situation was urgent. And immediately, God's glory appeared in the tent of meeting. Likewise, when we humble ourselves and fall before God with earnestness in urgent moments, God will intervene and answer us. "When one demonstrates the attitudes of humility and servanthood, God's presence and blessing are realized most fully." \_R. Dennis Cole, Numbers, NAC, 280-283.

**Verse 8** **With the staff** God commanded Moses to take the staff and stand in front of the rock. The expression in verse 9, where it says that Moses took the staff before the Lord, signifies that he stood with the authority granted by God. "Therefore Milgrom has suggested that "it was more likely the rod of Moses which had been employed in the performance of God's miracles in the wilderness."" — R. Dennis Cole, Numbers, NAC, 280-283.

**Verse 11** **Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff** The fact that Moses struck the rock twice clearly shows that he expressed his anger before the congregation. In Exodus 17, there is also a record of the Israelites thirsting for water. At that time, Moses acted according to God's word. Moses was used as an instrument of God's answer to the Israelites' prayers by

obeying. However, in Numbers 20, by displaying his anger, Moses failed to reflect God's character and glory. "Moses' unbelief was compounded by his anger, expressed in his remarks to the people (10), 'he spoke words that were rash' (Ps. 106:33), and by his striking the rock twice (11). " \_Gordon J. Wenham, Numbers Tyndale Commentary, 94.

**Verse 12** **You did not trust in me** Grammatically, this expression is used in the form of a causative verb. It means that Moses and Aaron did not lead the Israelites to believe in the Lord God. Although the Israelites obtained water, the display of Moses and Aaron's anger obscured God's glory.



Embracing the members with a shepherd's heart

# Small Group Preview

Small Group Usage

| Living Life Weekly Bible Study 4, May 22nd Scripture, P188 |

## Ice Breakers

Share an experience when you discovered wisdom to solve a problem while praying before God.

## Examine God's Word

Read Numbers 27:1-11 together. Circle or underline the repeated words or expressions with important meaning.

## Understand Setting

In the latter part of the book of Numbers, Moses prepares for the conquest of the land of Canaan and the distribution of the land. God commanded that the land be distributed fairly, considering the population of each tribe. The Israelites who received land had to obey God's sovereignty through the process of casting lots. In this process, God's sovereignty and fairness are revealed. During this time, the daughters of Zelophehad came to Moses. This family reported that they had no male heirs to inherit the land. Moses brought this matter before God, and God gave instructions not only for this family but also for guidelines that would be applicable to the entire Israelite society.

## Meditate the Text

1-1 **Observation** Why did the daughters of Zelophehad come to Moses, and what did they request? (Numbers 27:3-4)

.....

1-2 **Application** Do I ask God for what I want without thinking, or do I pray according to God's will, based on His promises?

.....

**2-1** Observation How did God view the request of the daughters of Zelophehad? (v. 7) What new content did God reveal about inheritance law? (vv. 8-11)

---

**2-2** Application When I responded in faith, how has God solved a problem or answered my prayers?

---

## Review the Text

Moses delivered God's command regarding how the land would be distributed when the Israelites entered the land of Canaan. The method of distribution was fair and would take place under God's sovereignty. Among this, the daughters of Zelophehad brought to Moses the issue that there was no male heir in their family to inherit the land. Through Moses, God provided guidance so that each family would receive its inheritance. Today, when we face various problems, we too can seek God's wisdom and guidance.

## Pray through the Text

- 1 When facing difficulties, let me first call upon the name of God the Father as it is.
- 2 Grant me the grace to solve various problems with the wisdom provided by God.



Embracing the members with a shepherd's heart

# Small Group Preview

Leader Usage

| Living Life Weekly Bible Study 4, May 22nd Scripture, P188 |

## Ice Breakers

Share an experience when you discovered wisdom to solve a problem while praying before God.

## Examine God's Word

Read Numbers 27:1-11 together. Circle or underline the repeated words or expressions with important meaning.

NIV	GOD'S WORD	ESV
<p>1 The daughters of Zelophehad son of Hephher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, belonged to the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph. The names of the daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah. They came forward</p> <p>2 and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting and said,</p> <p>3 "Our father died in the wilderness. He was not among Korah's followers, who banded together against the LORD, but he died for his own sin and left no sons.</p> <p>4 Why should our father's name disappear from his clan because he had no son? Give us property among our father's relatives."</p> <p>5 So Moses brought their case before the LORD,</p> <p>6 and the LORD said to him,</p>	<p>1 The daughters of Zelophehad, son of Hephher, grandson of Gilead, descendant of Machir, whose father was Manasseh, belonged to the families of Manasseh, son of Joseph. Their names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. They came</p> <p>2 to Moses and stood in front of him, the priest Eleazar, the leaders, and the whole community at the entrance to the tent of meeting. They said,</p> <p>3 "Our father died in the desert. He was not a part of Korah's followers who joined forces against the LORD. He died for his own sin and left no sons.</p> <p>4 Why should our father's name be allowed to die out in his family because he had no son? Give us property among our father's relatives."</p> <p>5 So Moses brought their case to the LORD,</p> <p>6 and the LORD said to him,</p>	<p>1 Then drew near the daughters of Zelophehad the son of Hephher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manasseh, from the clans of Manasseh the son of Joseph. The names of his daughters were: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.</p> <p>2 And they stood before Moses and before Eleazar the priest and before the chiefs and all the congregation, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, saying,</p> <p>3 "Our father died in the wilderness. He was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah, but died for his own sin. And he had no sons.</p> <p>4 Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father's brothers."</p> <p>5 Moses brought their case before the LORD.</p> <p>6 And the LORD said to Moses,</p>

7 "What Zelophehad's daughters are saying is right. You must certainly give them property as an inheritance among their father's relatives and give their father's inheritance to them.

8 "Say to the Israelites, 'If a man dies and leaves no son, give his inheritance to his daughter.

9 If he has no daughter, give his inheritance to his brothers.

10 If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father's brothers.

11 If his father had no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative in his clan, that he may possess it. This is to have the force of law for the Israelites, as the LORD commanded Moses."

7 "Zelophehad's daughters are right. You must give them property of their own among their father's relatives. Turn their father's property over to them.

8 "Tell the Israelites: If a man dies and leaves no sons, turn his property over to his daughters.

9 If he has no daughters, give his property to his brothers.

10 If he has no brothers, give his property to his uncles on his father's side of the family.

11 If he has no uncles, give his property to the nearest relative in his family, and that relative will take possession of it. This will be a rule for the Israelites, as the LORD commanded Moses."

7 "The daughters of Zelophehad are right. You shall give them possession of an inheritance among their father's brothers and transfer the inheritance of their father to them.

8 And you shall speak to the people of Israel, saying, 'If a man dies and has no son, then you shall transfer his inheritance to his daughter.

9 And if he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers.

10 And if he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers.

11 And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the nearest kinsman of his clan, and he shall possess it. And it shall be for the people of Israel a statute and rule, as the LORD commanded Moses."

## Understand Setting

In the latter part of the book of Numbers, Moses prepares for the conquest of the land of Canaan and the distribution of the land. God instructed that the land should be distributed fairly, considering the population of each tribe. The Israelites, who were to receive land, had to follow the process of casting lots, submitting to God's sovereignty in the process. This process reveals God's sovereignty and fairness. During this time, the daughters of Zelophehad came to Moses. They reported that their family had no man to inherit the land. Moses brought this issue to God, and God provided instructions not only for this family but also for guidelines that would apply throughout Israel.

## Meditate the Text

**1-1** **Observation** Why did the daughters of Zelophehad come to Moses, and what did they ask for? (verses 3-4)

They asked for their father's inheritance because their father, Zelophehad, died without sons, and his name would be cut off from among the people.

**Explanation** In ancient Israel society, activities were carried out according to tribes, clans, and families. The name of a clan or family was very important. Losing a family name meant receiving God's punishment or being socially ostracized. In ancient society, the distribution of land was a matter of survival and therefore a very important issue. In this situation, the daughters of Zelophehad brought their case before God's word.

**1-2** **Application** Do I ask God for what I want without thinking, or do I pray in accordance with God's will based on His promises?

**Explanation** The daughters of Zelophehad approached God based on His covenant promises and asked Him. In Jewish literature, the Midrash, there is a comparison made between the men who feared the conquest of the land of Canaan and the women who courageously approached Moses. Today, it is also necessary for us to humbly and courageously approach God in prayer, based on His Word.

**2-1** **Observation** How did God view the request of the daughters of Zelophehad? (Verse 7) What is the new content of the inheritance law that God revealed? (Verses 8-11)

God acknowledged that the daughters of Zelophehad were right and commanded that if there are no sons, the daughters may inherit the property.

**Explanation** God acknowledged that the request of the daughters of Zelophehad was just. In the ancient Near Eastern culture, the status and authority of women were significantly lower compared to modern times. In this cultural context, this event demonstrates that God values both men and women equally. God commanded that not only men, but also women, close family members, or relatives, should be given appropriate portions of land. God values all people today, regardless of their conditions, because all people bear the honorable image of God.

**2-2** Application **When I responded in faith, if there was a time when God solved a problem for me or answered my prayers, share that experience.**

**Explanation** The daughters of Zelophehad did not retreat in the face of difficulties, but actively approached and sought help. As a result, God acknowledged their situation and gave appropriate guidance. When Moses heard their request, he did not answer immediately, but brought the legal difficulty before God. In doing so, Moses received God's guidance, which went beyond the legal standards and provided a righteous and wise direction. We too need to seek God's wisdom in all things.

### Review the Text

---

Moses communicated God's command on how the land should be distributed when the Israelites entered the land of Canaan. The method of land distribution was fair and would be carried out under God's sovereignty. In the midst of this, the daughters of Zelophehad approached Moses, explaining that their family had no male heirs to inherit the land. Through Moses, God provided guidance to ensure that each household would inherit God's portion. Today, when we face various problems, we too can seek God's wisdom and guidance by bringing our concerns before Him.

### Pray through the Text

---

- 1 When I face difficulties, may I first call upon the name of God the Father as it is.
- 2 Grant me the grace to solve various problems with the wisdom that You provide.

## Word Studies

**Verse 1** **The daughters of Zelophehad** While the Israelites were living in the wilderness, the first generation all died in the wilderness. Among them was a man named Zelophehad, who had five daughters. Moses mentioned the distribution of land to each tribe when they were to enter the land of Canaan, and during this process, this family was in danger of being left out. So, the five daughters went to find Moses. In Jewish texts, the Midrash compares the men who were afraid to conquer the land of Canaan with the women who courageously approached Moses. “The concern shared by Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah was that their family would be passed over in the apportionment and that name be forgotten in posterity. The second census had been outlined in terms of patriarchal clans, without reference to the status of women within the system.” —R. Dennis Cole, *Numbers*, NAC, 405.

**Verse 4** **Why should our father's name be removed from his family because he has no son?** In ancient Israelite society, people operated by tribe, clan, and family. In that society, the name of one's clan and family was very important. The disappearance of a family's name signified either receiving God's judgment or being socially ostracized. In ancient society, land distribution was closely tied to survival, making it an extremely important issue. “Second, the potential disappearance of one's family name was a matter of grave concern, often associated with divine judgment and eventuating in societal abandonment.” — R. Dennis Cole, *Numbers*, NAC, p. 405.

**Verse 5** **Moses brought the case before the Lord** Moses did not respond immediately but brought the situation, which involved legal difficulties, before God. When Moses brought this situation to God, he received God's guidance toward a correct and wise direction, beyond merely adhering to legal standards. Likewise, we also need to frequently seek wisdom from God. “Moses does not reply immediately because of a lack of legal precedent related to the women's petition. As a quality spiritual leader he seeks the Lord for an answer to the matter of women and land inheritance.” — R. Dennis Cole, *Numbers*, NAC, p. 405.

**Verse 7** **The daughters of Zelophehad are right** God told Moses that the request of Zelophehad's daughters was proper. In the ancient Near East, the status and authority of women were significantly lower compared to today. This event shows that God values both men and women with honor. God commanded that land be appropriately distributed not only to men but also to women, close family members, or relatives. Even today, God esteems every person with honor, regardless of conditions. “Theologically the section presses the rights of women to a clear and recognized legal position within the sphere of property law. They are seen as a proper channel through which the threads of possession and inheritance may properly be traced. Thus the children of Zelophehad's daughters, as well as future generations of women, could receive landed property via familial inheritance, whether male or female.” — R. Dennis Cole, *Numbers*, NAC, p. 406.

# • Ministry Prayer Request for May •

## Major Ministry Schedule

- During the CCS Conference (May 20–22), may God grant abundant grace so that many church leaders may discover God’s wisdom and find an opportunity to grow together.
- Through the Relationship Skills Training Retreat (May 9–11) and the training processes of Track 1 and Track 2, may the Holy Spirit work powerfully to heal broken relationships and lead them into healthy ones.
- During the Dominican Republic Outreach (May 23–30), bless the medical ministry and VBS ministry taking place at Missionary Myung-Kwan Kang’s center, so that they may bear great fruit through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- As the Father School in Guatemala (May 15–21) is held, grant that many brothers may experience conversion and be established as biblical fathers.
- Through the Wednesday Women’s Ministry Closing Worship (May 14), may the women who received grace become victorious missionaries of faith in their everyday lives.
- Through the Mother’s School (May 31–June 1, June 7–8), may mothers experience spiritual restoration and be established as wise women who beautifully nurture their families.
- Through the May discipleship course (Building a Happy Family Relationship through the Gospel of Mark 1), grant deep understanding of God’s Word and the blessing of building healthy families.
- Pour out abundant grace upon the EW congregation during every worship service, and raise up strong small groups and leaders to help new members settle in well.

## Next Generation Prayer Topics

- May God be present through His Word and the Holy Spirit during the Sonlight Worship, provide enough one-day summer volunteer teachers, and help all Toontown team members and instructors prepare well.
- May God's presence fill the Coram Deo Worship, and may the students become a Christlike community that loves and cares for one another.
- Through the Praise Night on May 30, may the NEXT students exalt God and deeply encounter Him, and grant wisdom to the small group leaders so they may guide the students well in faith.
- Help the EW College students overcome various trials they encounter in the world through God's Word and His guidance.

# Small Group Preview

Jesus community where God's kingdom is realized on this earth

2025. 5. 4, Bothell Main Campus 2pm



시애틀형제교회  
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEATTLE

**Publisher** | James Kwon

**Editor** | Pastoral Staff

**E-mail** | [hyungjaecommunity@hyungjae.org](mailto:hyungjaecommunity@hyungjae.org)

**Address** | 3727 240th St SE, Bothell, WA 98021

**Phone Number** | 425-488-1004