

Numbers for grumblers



Materials for group meetings

13th Meeting THEME: The final inheritance

Prepare in prayer. Read Chapter 36. If you have time also read Chapter 27:1-11.

Icebreaker To bear fruit for Jesus (and to avoid sin), Christians may feel called to make radical choices. Which examples you have seen come to your mind as examples of this?

Pray Ask God for His Holy Spirit to speak to you through His Word today.

Bible passage When in Israel a boy and a girl married, the boy would get a portion of land from his parents and the girl would get a dowry from her parents. Husband and wife joined together, as well as land and dowry, would shape the conditions for the procreation of life. By giving the land to the boys only, the land would always stay into the family and be associated with the name of the first heir of that land. But what if there were no boys? In Numbers 27 we read about a father who had five daughters. They were concerned that the land would be given to others and the name of their father would be forgotten. Therefore, God instructed Moses to give the land to these girls – this forms the background of today's chapter.

Read Numbers 36

- Share your first questions/observations/lessons.
- Look for yourself at Numbers 11:1-6. In what respect is the atmosphere in Ch. 36 different from this?

Look again at 36:1-4

- Though the growth of Manasseh had been most exponential of all tribes (compare Ch. 26, esp. vs. 34 with Ch. 1), Manasseh was unashamed to be concerned not to lose any part of the inheritance given to their tribe. That may look egocentric, but it wasn't. How is there a lesson in this for us? (You may look at Hebr. 12:16b-17, Rev. 3:11)

Look again at 36:5-12

- Israel was charged to hold fast to its inheritance. The New Testament also speaks about the inheritance for believers. Wouldn't it be good to know about that?! Where does it speak about inheritance/heirs and what does it say?
- Imagine you were told that you might only date a limited number of marriage candidates – maybe you would be inclined to grumble or even rebel. These five girls didn't. Why not, do you think? And why do you think the book of Numbers ends with these girls?

Look again at 36:13

There is still a last river to be crossed (the Jordan), and on the other side a final battle with the last enemies awaiting. In that light, it is striking that the concerns we read about in this chapter were not related to these threats. Apparently, they had confidence in God concerning these things. What does the Spirit teach us through that?

Digging deeper

Today we finish reading the book of Numbers. What is a big lesson you learnt and hope not to lose? Take some moments of silence, then share.

End with prayer. Thank God for what you received through his Word while studying the book of Numbers