

# Vacation Bible School 2024

## *Adventures through the Bible*

### “Hidden Heroes”

#### Day 1 – Seniors Lesson

Zelophehad’s Daughters

**Title:** “Challenging Tradition:  
The Story of Zelophehad's Daughters”

**Scripture:** Numbers 27:1-11, 36:1-12

**Objective:** To learn about the story of Zelophehad’s daughters and how they showed courage and faith in the face of adversity.

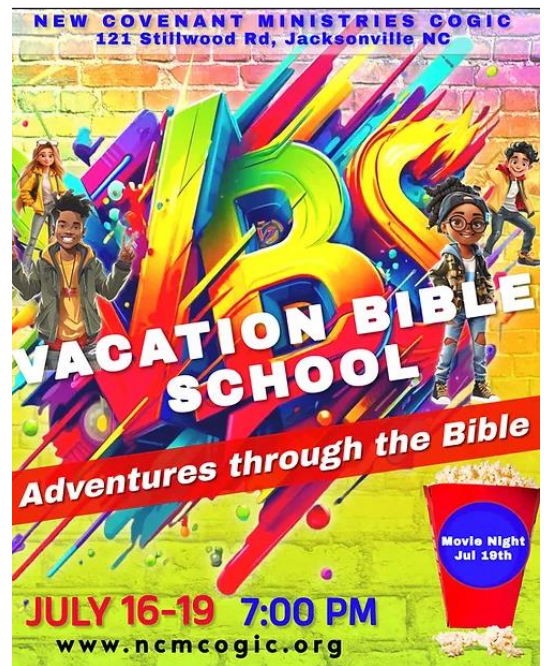
#### Story:

The story of Zelophehad from the Bible, found primarily in the book of Numbers chapters 26 and 27, revolves around a significant legal and social issue of inheritance rights in ancient Israel. Here’s an elaboration suitable for teenagers aged 12-18:

Zelophehad was an Israelite man who, along with his five daughters—Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah—was part of the tribe of Manasseh. When Zelophehad passed away without any sons, a problem arose concerning the inheritance of his land. In those times, inheritance laws stated that only male heirs could inherit property, leaving Zelophehad’s daughters without the possibility of receiving their father’s land.

The daughters, believing in the fairness of their cause, took bold action. They approached Moses, the leader appointed by God, and presented their case for inheriting their father’s land. Their argument was not just about property; it challenged the societal norms that favored men over women in matters of inheritance.

Moses, recognizing the complexity of the situation, sought God’s guidance. In response, God declared that the daughters were right: they should indeed inherit their father’s portion of land. This decision was groundbreaking, as it affirmed the principle of fairness and equality in God’s eyes, demonstrating that gender should not be a barrier to receiving what is rightfully deserved.



The significance of this story extends beyond legal matters. It underscores God's concern for justice and His recognition of the inherent worth and rights of all individuals, regardless of gender. It also highlights the courage and determination of Zelophehad's daughters to challenge unjust norms and advocate for their rights in a patriarchal society.

For teenagers today, the story of Zelophehad's daughters serves as a powerful example of standing up for justice and equality. It encourages young people to question unjust practices and to advocate for fairness and equal opportunities for all. It also prompts reflection on how ancient principles of justice can inform contemporary debates about gender equality and social justice issues.

### **What We Can Learn from the Story:**

- The story of Zelophehad's daughters highlights the importance of challenging tradition and questioning unfair laws.
- God values the contributions of women and recognizes their rights as equal to those of men.
- Faith and perseverance can lead to positive outcomes when we trust in God.
- The story emphasizes the importance of seeking justice and fairness in all aspects of life.
- God is willing to work with us to find solutions to difficult problems and challenges.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What was the problem that Zelophehad's daughters faced?
2. How did they approach the situation? What did they do?
3. What did Moses do in response to their request?
4. How did God respond to their request?
5. What does this story teach us about faith and perseverance?

## **Conclusion:**

The story of Zelophehad's daughters is an inspiring example of how individuals can challenge tradition and receive an answer from God. We can learn from their courage and perseverance as they sought justice and fairness in their situation.

## **Craft Ideas:**

1. **Inheritance Scroll:** Create a scroll with a parchment-like paper and write out the story of Zelophehad's daughters on it. Decorate the scroll with markers, stickers, or other craft supplies.
2. **Justice Scales:** Cut out a pair of scales from cardboard or construction paper. Decorate the scales with markers, stickers, or other craft supplies. This represents the concept of justice and fairness.
3. **Daughter's Land:** Cut out a piece of cardboard or construction paper to represent the land that Zelophehad's daughters inherited. Draw a map of Israel on it and decorate it with markers, stickers, or other craft supplies.