

CORNERSTONE 2017 RESOURCE

Women's Rights & The Daughters of Zelophehad OR: I Can't Believe We Still Have to Protest This Stuff *Spin It!*

AUTHOR(S):	Sara Beth Berman
SUMMARY:	What does the Bible have to do with Women's Rights and the Women's March/es of January 2017? Let's smash the patriarchy, shall we? - <i>Submitted by Sara Beth Berman</i>
TOPIC(S):	Communication Skills, Community Building, Gender, Sex, and Sexuality, Group Dynamics, Jewish History, Jewish Text, Jewish Values, Leadership Development, Performance, Social Justice, Storytelling, Tikkun Olam
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	<p>Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Torah can teach us lessons that can be applied today • Protests have been happening since the days of the Torah • The women's rights movement, specifically, has been around for thousands of years. <p>Knowledge and Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will be able to explain a summer Torah portion (Pinchas) fully and specifically focus on the vignette about the daughters of Zelophehad • Participants will be able to connect the daughters of Zelophehad to today's issues
AUDIENCE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle school, high school, staff • At least 10 people, bunk, unit
TIMING:	20 minutes
APPENDICES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buzzfeed 61 of the Greatest Signs from the Women's Marches Around the Country by Julie Reinstein
MATERIALS NEEDED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction paper • White Printer paper • Markers
SET-UP DETAILS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a decent writing space - some flat surfaces required

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SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

- Grabber (5 minutes)
 - Gather the participants like a march protester, and yell, people's mike style:
 - "I'm here
 - to protest
 - for the daughters
 - of Zelophehad.
 - He died
 - And there are 5 of them
 - And there is property
 - That will not be inherited
 - By them because they're not sons
 - The daughters
 - Deserve
 - Their
 - Inheritance!
 - We're wandering in the desert
 - But property is property
 - And family is family
 - And these women
 - Deserve their family's property
- Main Activity (10 minutes)
 - Do you have any questions about the daughters?
 - (Read numbers 27 text if it's new to them)

Numbers Chapter 27

1 Then drew near the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hepher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph; and these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, and Hoglah, and Milcah, and Tirzah. **2** And they stood before Moses, and before Eleazar the priest, and before the princes and all the congregation, at the door of the tent of meeting, saying: **3** 'Our father died in the wilderness, and he was not among the company of them that gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah, but he died in his own sin; and he had no sons. **4** Why should the name of our father be done away from among his family, because he had no son? Give unto us a possession among the brethren of our father.' **5** And Moses brought their cause before the LORD. **6** And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying: **7** 'The daughters of Zelophehad speak right: thou shalt surely give them a possession of an inheritance among their father's brethren; and thou shalt cause the inheritance of their father to pass unto them. **8** And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying: If a man die, and have no son, then ye shall cause his inheritance to pass unto his daughter.

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א ותקרבנה בנות צלפחד, בן-חפר בן-גלעד בן-מכיר בן-מנשה, למשפחת, מנשה בן-יוסף; ואלה, שמות בנותיו--מחלה נעה, וחקלה ומלכה ותרצה. בותעמדנה לפני משה, ולפני אלעזר הכהן, ולפני הנשיאם, וכל-העדה--פתח אהל-מועד, לאמר. ג אבינו, מת במדבר, והוא לא-היה בתוך העדה הנועדים על-יהוה, בעדת-קרח: כי-בחטאו מת, ובנים לא-היו לו. ד למה יגרע שם-אבינו מתוך משפחתו, כי אין לו בן; תנה-לנו אחזה, בתוך אחי אבינו. ה ויקרב משה את-משפטן, לפני יהוה. ו ויאמר יהוה, אל-משה לאמר. ז כן, בנות צלפחד דברת--נתן תתן להם אחזת נחלה, בתוך אחי אביהם; והעברת את-נחלת אביהן, להן. ח ואל-בני ישראל, תדבר לאמר: איש-כי-ימות, ובן אין לו--והעברתם את-נחלתו, לבתו.

- “Welcome to the Women’s March BaMidbar” We’re protesting the daughters of Zelophehad’s father’s land - they’re not going to inherit his land. Please make a women’s march sign. I hope you wore your marching sandals - you’re going to need them today!
- We’re going to make protest signs like the ones seen this year at protests around the world.
 - Feel free to pull up on your phone or laptop: BuzzFeed [61 of the Greatest Signs from the Women’s Marches Around the Country](#) by Julie Reinstein
- Share signs
- Discussion:
 - How did it feel to compare a Bible story to the very modern protest culture ramping up in the USA?
 - What was meaningful about this exercise for you?
 - How do you think you would’ve reacted if you were a daughter of Zelophehad?
 - The daughters win this battle, in the end, but then their land rights get rescinded. How do you feel knowing about this outcome?

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:

Have fun with it! Be aware of political issues in your camp community!