



FACES OF OUR FAITH

LEARNING FROM BOLD + UNTOLD STORIES

STUDY JOURNAL

OCTOBER 19 SERMON

THE DAUGHTERS OF
ZELOPHEHAD



sanctifiedart.org

There are many heroes of the faith, people we admire and wish to be. However, there are even more ordinary people of faith—those doing what they can with what they have to make a difference. We’ve selected 16 bold stories of those often overlooked in our biblical narratives. Using visual art and prompts for reflection, we hope to dig deep into the worlds of these characters, entering their stories with curiosity and openness to what they might teach us.

We have arranged the stories so that they have a narrative arc beginning with Genesis and the Hebrew stories, moving to the minor characters in the backdrop of Jesus’ birth and death, and concluding with the apostles and Christians who emerged in the years after the resurrection. We invite you to complete this journal at the pace and order that suits you. You may wish to ponder the reflections and prompts individually or with others. We have designed this journal so that it might be used as a personal devotional or as the curriculum for a group study series.

As we journey with these characters, may they remind us that we all play a role in shaping God’s story of redemption and grace. May they awaken us to the faces of our faith in our world today. May they encourage us to know that no action is ever too small to make a difference.

Artfully yours,

The Sanctified Art Creative Team

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As you journey with the biblical characters in this series, we invite you to name the faces of your own faith and reflect on how they have impacted you. You may wish to name friends, family members, mentors, pastors, public figures, strangers—consider anyone and everyone who has made a lasting impact on your faith.

face of my faith:

impact_____

face of my faith:

impact_____



They Stood | Lauren Wright Pittman



FACES OF OUR FAITH

THE DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD

read NUMBERS 27:1-11

from the artist | LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN

I imagine the daughters had to fill the entire tent in order to be heard. I imagine Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah took the shape of the tent of meeting, a place where they were met by powerful men, a place of sacrifice and worship—not a place where a woman’s voice was often heard. The text says the women came forward; they stood, they spoke, they questioned, and they even demanded. Any one of those actions alone is difficult for the unseen and unheard. All they wanted was to receive the inheritance of their father and to keep his name from fading. I’m sure the pain of their father’s death was potent, but they needed to be recognized, valued, and seen as human beings in order to survive.

The catalyst for this moment isn’t only the women’s strength; it also took a man in power to listen, to open his heart, to wrestle, and to offer his grasp over this patriarchal law to God. When Moses offered up his control and dared to consider a new way, God heard the voices of these women. “They are right,” God said. The old law was no longer suitable, so God made way for change. Though the laws were probably carved into stone, God shows us in this text that the law is living, breathing, adaptable, and changing. This text invites us to come forward, to stand, to speak, to question, and to demand change when we experience injustice. When the powers in place don’t budge, that is not the end of the story. When you personally aren’t experiencing injustice, that does not mean you should bask in your comfort. For those whose voices are less valued, for those who go unseen, for those who have fought a long and continuing fight, we must breathe life into those old, tired, worn-out laws. In this image, the winds of change, the breath of God, surrounds the tent of meeting and the voice of God descends on these women, hearing their cry. New life sprouts from the ground as the law is heard afresh.



look

Take a few moments to gaze upon the artwork. Sit still in quiet meditation as you observe the visual qualities of what you see: color, line, texture, movement, shape, form. Now take a deeper look. What parts of the image are your eyes most drawn to? What parts of the image did you overlook? Now engage your imagination. What story would you assign to each of the figures?



reflect

- Look again at the daughters' words and actions. How do they make their case before Moses? What rationale do they present? How might this new law affect their tribe as a whole?
- In his famous Letter from a Birmingham Jail, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. argues the differences between just and unjust laws. How do you discern the difference between laws that are just and unjust? How does God define what is just? What current laws might need to be re-examined?
- Name women throughout history who have advocated for women's rights and effected change.



write

Consider an unjust law or rule that exists today. In the space below, make a case for why this law should be changed, citing who is affected by it, the consequences of it, and a proposal for change.

[illegible]

pray

God of the unseen and the unheard, breathe the winds of change into our worn-out laws so that all might have a fair chance at a full life. Amen.



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