

#HerTruth:

Women in Ministry Break Their Silence

Discussion Guide

*This discussion guide is meant to be used as a companion piece to the #HerTruth video. You are encouraged to watch the video and plan a time with a group to use the discussion guide as a way to further your conversation about women's equality and value. Please feel free to break up the questions as it fits for your discussion group and note you may want to plan additional meeting times to work through not only this discussion guide material, but also the church assessment. You may use the additional downloadable resource of *The Book of Discipline Social Principles on Women* for reference to United Methodist beliefs and practices.*

1 One day a petition was presented by the daughters of Zelophehad—Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. Their father, Zelophehad, was a descendant of Hephher son of Gilead, son of Makir, son of Manasseh, son of Joseph. **2** These women stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the tribal leaders, and the entire community at the entrance of the Tabernacle.[a] **3** “Our father died in the wilderness,” they said. “He was not among Korah’s followers, who rebelled against the Lord; he died because of his own sin. But he had no sons. **4** Why should the name of our father disappear from his clan just because he had no sons? Give us property along with the rest of our relatives.”

5 So Moses brought their case before the Lord. **6** And the Lord replied to Moses, **7** “The claim of the daughters of Zelophehad is legitimate. You must give them a grant of land along with their father’s relatives. Assign them the property that would have been given to their father.

8 “And give the following instructions to the people of Israel: If a man dies and has no son, then give his inheritance to his daughters. **9** And if he has no daughter either, transfer his inheritance to his brothers. **10** If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. **11** But if his father has no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative in his clan. This is a legal requirement for the people of Israel, just as the Lord commanded Moses.” *Numbers 27:1-11(NLT)*

Questions for Discussion:

1. How did these 5 women, with one voice, change the history for all the women of Israel? Why don't we know their names?
2. What do you think they risked when they chose to speak out against the injustice of their situation to the priests and leaders of their day?
3. How did God affirm the worth, role and authority of women in this passage?
4. What role did Moses, a male leader, play in making sure they were heard and validated by the whole community?
5. How do you see Jesus affirm women's worth throughout his ministry?
6. How does the Holy Spirit inform you about women's worth today?
7. Who have been female spiritual leaders in your life?
8. What do female spiritual leaders offer our church?
9. How would you feel if your wife, daughter, mother, sister, etc. felt called to serve in ordained ministry? How would you support her?
10. What is one way you personally can support lay and clergywomen in your local church?
11. What is one way you can advocate for lay and clergywomen's role in your local church and beyond?

Commission on the Status and Role of Women
Sexual Ethics **Confidential Hotline is 1-800-523-8390**

For resources to use in worship, Bible study material, research and statics involving women in ministry and studies on how to use expansive language for God please visit the website for the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women at www.gcsr.org