

# PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

## LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE



**Sermon Date: 05/04/2020**

**Text(s): Numbers 32:1–5**

**Title: Distribution. Dissonance. Dissolved.**

**Preacher: Rev Collin See**

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

### **READ (5 mins)**

(Read the Bible texts, quietly or aloud)

#### **Numbers 32:1–5 (ESV)**

**1** Now the people of Reuben and the people of Gad had a very great number of livestock. And they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, and behold, the place was a place for livestock.

**2** So the people of Gad and the people of Reuben came and said to Moses and to Eleazar the priest and to the chiefs of the congregation,

**3** “Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon,

**4** the land that the LORD struck down before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock.”

**5** And they said, “If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession. Do not take us across the Jordan.”

### **REFLECT (30 mins)**

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text)

- 1. The leaders of the tribes of Reuben and Gad discussed together with Moses and Eleazar to give them their inheritance of the land ahead of time before the Israelites had crossed the Jordan to conquer the land. This is like the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. This is an act of *potong jalan* which means to cut in ahead of others. These leaders were cutting in ahead of other tribes and were asking for their inheritance when it wasn't the right time to do so. We have heard stories of people cutting queue at a hawker centre or asking for a privilege to be given first, way ahead of others. You probably have personally experienced something like this before. If you have, how did it happen?**



2. **Reading the passage on from verses 6 to 13, we see that the request of the leaders of Reuben and Gad had two effects. First, it caused a misunderstanding that they were not willing to cross the river Jordan and help the other tribes to conquer their land, when the other 10 tribes had contributed to the conquering of the land of Jazer and Gilead. Second, this misunderstanding caused discouragement to come upon the other leaders. A great discouragement fell onto the Israelites of the previous generation when the leaders of Reuben and Gad, together with the leaders of 8 other tribes, refused to cross the Jordan after spying out the land (see Numbers 13). What are some common causes of discouragement in our daily lives?**
  
3. **The preacher called discouragement a disease, one that can destroy an entire nation (v15 NLT). It can handicap a nation. Why is discouragement such a terrible disease that it can destroy an entire nation?**

### **RELATE (30 mins)**

(Relate and apply God's word to our daily lives)

1. **No one can deprive us from having courage and hope except ourselves. How do we deprive ourselves from having courage and hope? And how can we prevent this from happening?**
  
2. **In the past 2 months as our nation battles with COVID-19, did you experience bouts of discouragement, fear and depression? If you did, how did you overcome that sense of discouragement or fear? Please don't be afraid to share with us if, right now, you are feeling discouraged or fearful and haven't yet overcome these feelings.**

### **REST (15 mins)**

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)

- Pray for one another to have God's strength, courage and hope to overcome any sense of discouragement and fear.
- Pray for others in your family or circle of friends who need prayer support.
- Remember to pray for our church and churches in Singapore to continue as godly witnesses to Singapore and beyond.