

March 4
Levites Who Serve God

■ **Text:** Numbers 1:49~53 (March 18 Passage)

■ **Bottom line:** A Levite is a person set apart for the service of God. As believers in Jesus, we are like spiritual Levites.

≡ **1. Prayer**

Thank you, God, for guiding us in your loving hand. Please let us listen to Your Word and give us wisdom to live according to Your will.

≡ **2. Praise**

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≡ **3. The Word**

Read Numbers 1:49~53 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

49 "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not list, and you shall not take a census of them among the people of Israel. 50 But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings, and over all that belongs to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it and shall camp around the tabernacle. 51 When the tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down, and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up. And if any outsider comes near, he shall be put to death. 52 The people of Israel shall pitch their tents by their companies, each man in his own camp and each man by his own standard. 53 But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the people of Israel. And the Levites shall keep guard over the tabernacle of the testimony."

<NASB>

⁴⁹"Only the tribe of Levi you shall not count, nor shall you take their census among the sons of Israel. ⁵⁰And you shall appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings and over everything that belongs to it. They shall carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it; they shall also camp around the tabernacle. ⁵¹So when the tabernacle is to move on, the Levites shall take it down; and when the tabernacle encamps, the Levites shall set it up. But the layman who comes near *it* shall be put to death. ⁵²So the sons of Israel shall camp, each man by his own camp, and each man by his own flag, according to their armies. ⁵³But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there will be no *divine* wrath against the congregation of the sons of Israel. So the Levites shall be responsible for service to the tabernacle of the testimony."

Understanding Text

God commanded Moses to count the men over the age of 20 who were fit to fight in battle, by tribe. But he told us to exclude the tribe of Levi. Levites were set apart to serve God. They interceded between the Holy God and the people of Israel and helped worship in the tabernacle.

Understanding the text for leaders

After the Exodus, Israel stayed in the wilderness of Sinai and received God's word (Exodus 19:1~40:22; Numbers 1:1~10:10). They were given the Ten Commandments for God's people to keep, They gathered and prepared an army to fight against the Gentiles, and established order and rules for the community. God commanded Moses to count men over the age of 20 by tribe and family. It's to have an orderly procession and to prepare for the whole war. But God told us not to count the tribe of Levi. The Levites were given the task of taking care of God's tabernacle and keeping its holiness intact. The Levites led the Israelites to march through the wilderness. We have to unfold and fold the tabernacle in the building. We must also make sure that the people do not violate God's holy boundaries and lose their lives (Exodus 19:24). God set apart the Levites so that God's glory could be revealed and the people could fully receive God's blessings. The Levites are the privileged people who are closest to God, and they must serve the people well for the glory and holiness of God.

4. Sharing

1) What did God specifically entrust the Levites? (verses 50, 53).

Upper Grades

What did God specifically assign to the Levites? (verses 50, 53).

Lower Grades

What did God specifically assign to the Levites? (verses 50, 53).

Question Guide

The Levites had the actual duties of the sanctuary. In addition, point out in verses 50 and 53 that the Israelites were in the middle of the line so that they would not cross God's boundaries and die, and that they served so that God's holiness and glory would be revealed.

Comments for Leaders

The Levites played an intermediary role between God and the Israelites. To God, I guarded and managed the tabernacle so that God's holiness would not be compromised, and to teach the people to live according to God's law so that they would not be harmed. The only people who could approach the tabernacle of the holy God were the Levites. When other people approached the tabernacle and crossed God's boundaries, they were wrathed. When the Levites moved or camped in the wilderness, they dwelt in the center of the people along with the tabernacle, playing an important role in keeping God in the center of Israel.

2) What can I do in the community to make sure that my worship of God is full worship?

Upper Grades

What is my role in the community so that the worship of God is full worship?

Lower Grades

What can I do in my next family worship service?

□ Question Guide

Whether it's a family worship service, a small group worship service during the week, or a Sunday worship service where all members gather, please share what kind of worship you are participating in. Then share what each of you is doing in that service. Examine what kind of service each of you is doing, such as helping before the worship service, helping with the conduct of the worship service, and helping after the service, and share what kind of service you will practice in the future.

□ Comments for Leaders

We are all chosen and called by God in Jesus Christ. God has given us the privilege of fellowship and worship with Him by making us His children. May we remember that God has given us today the same role He gave to the Levites in Old Testament times. Like the Levites, who served as an intermediary between God and His people, we can help worship God. This is because we have a mission to deliver God's blessings to the world.

≡ 5. Be grateful

Thank God for His grace in calling me to be a worshiper of God and a worshiper.

≡ 6. Prayer

Thank you, God, for calling us in Jesus and bringing us into intimate fellowship with you. Let us first be worshippers who are pleasing to You, and let us be used as a channel of good to make the place of worship blessed wherever we are.

- End the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer.
