

Numbers: Journey to the Promised Land

Lesson 1: Setting up the Camp: Every Detail Matters (Chapters 1-4)

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Introducing the Study: *The Book of Numbers tells this part of the Bible narrative, the trip from Mt. Sinai to Acacia Grove, across the river from Jericho. Instead of taking just 11 days to reach Kadesh Barnea, and entering the land from the South, the Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness before making the trek north and entering Canaan from the east. The Book of Deuteronomy also gives insight into this period of history... a set of sermons given by Moses just before his death. Some of the scriptures for this study will also be from that book as well. I chose to write this eight week study from a new angle, from the point of view of Joshua! Each lesson includes a section of Joshua's journal, read by my husband, John! Of course we do not really have the journal of Joshua, however, the contents of the fictional journal closely follows the scriptures being taught. I introduce each lesson myself, and then also give a short commentary at the end. I recommend reading the scriptures for each week yourself, using the commentary book written by Chuck Missler.*

Introducing the Lesson Video: The group might wish to review the end of the book of Exodus to give context for the study. As you listen to the video, imagine what it would actually have been like to be living in the camp at Mt. Sinai. After the video ends, write what you think is the “key takeaway” for you from this lesson on a card.

Play Video: (14:23)

Small Group Discussion: (Choose a few questions.)

1. What stood out to you the most in this lesson? (Key Takeaway)
2. What would your major concern be if you were living in the camp of Israel at this time?
3. Think of a time when one of God's little details you discovered while reading the bible made a difference in your life.
4. Our entire journey of sanctification, our walk with Christ, has ups and downs. How do we know we are following the correct path?
5. Read the account of what happened to Nadab and Abihu in the book of Leviticus, Chapter 10. What does that teach us about living in the presence of a Holy God?
6. In your life, has there ever been a time when you have been settled for a long time in a physical place or in the same ministry? What did you do while you were "camping out" in that place? What happened? Did you become complacent in your faith or did you use that time to strengthen it for the next journey?
7. When was the last time God lifted the cloud and asked you to journey with him? What happened?

8. Does knowing that the entire camp of Israel was in the shape of a cross strengthen your faith? Why do you think that is?

Closure: Spend time praying as a group, thanking God for every detail found in the scriptures. Thank him for showing us his ultimate design pointing to Christ on every page of the Bible.

Homework: Read Chapters 1-4 in the Missler Book, or in the Bible. Mark any interesting new details you have discovered from reading these passages. If you are interested you may wish to watch the supplemental videos found on the website.

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