

#My Jubilee Bible

Reflection/Discussion Guide: Numbers 4-21; Psalm 43-49

This guide is broken into three parts:

1. A brief overview of the Scriptures you are reading this week
2. Questions for personal reflection
3. Questions for group discussion and application

Feel free to answer the questions for personal reflection at your own pace. They are designed to help consider a section of Scripture: the people, relationships and events described in the section.

Overview of Numbers

The beginning of Numbers reveals that God's plan is working. "The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting..."—Numbers 1:1. God is determined to bless His people with His presence and begins preparing them for the journey toward the Promise Land.

After a year around mount Sinai this book chronicles Israel's journey from Sinai to the wilderness and to the very edge of the Promised Land. The name "Numbers" comes from the census that is taken of each of the tribes.

The people become more and more impatient with the journey. There are mutinies, rebellions and stiff-necked people who refuse to enter into the promise that God has for them. Each scene it becomes more and more clear that the people that God has chosen have little interest in following His leadership.

A plague of snakes brings justice to their rebellion and God offers an unusual means of salvation for the people. A bronze serpent that represents the means of judgment also becomes the symbol of their salvation. This points hundreds of years into the future to the cross; a means of judgment becomes our symbol of salvation.

For a brief, but great overview of the book of Numbers, please go to <http://www.jubileestl.org/my-jubilee-bible/>

#My Jubilee Bible

Questions for Personal Reflection

Numbers chapter 4-10 Preparing to Leave Sinai

- God assigns jobs to the Levites and revisits the need to deal with sin; setting in order the centrality of worship as God prepares his people for life in a new land.
 - The logistics of moving the tabernacle and all of the utensils of worship quite a task.
 - Are you skilled in logistics?
 - What part of chapter 4 do you relate to most?
 - Realization of guilt, confession, and restitution are vital parts of living in right relationships. (5:5-10)
 - Which of these three things are easier for you to apply?
 - Which do you find more challenging to apply?
 - How does restitution as described in 5:7 indicate that the impact of our sin against someone is often bigger than what we may have understood?
 - God commands Aaron and the priests to bless God's people. (6:22-27)
 - What strikes you as important about this blessing?
 - How have blessings from significant people in your life shaped you?
 - What are some ways that you can use words to bless and affirm people around you?
 - In Chapter 9 two years have passed since Israel was delivered from Egypt. The Tabernacle is completely assembled and Passover is observed.
 - Everyone in Israel was to observe Passover, but some were unclean because of a death in the family.
 - How do those affected appeal to Moses?
 - How does Moses respond?
 - What impresses you about the way this problem is worked through?
 - How is the is good model for problem solving?
 - God's presence led the people. (9:15-23)
 - What seems difficult to you about this situation?
 - In what ways have you been dependent on the presence of God to lead you?
 - Moses has a conversation with his brother-in-law Hobab. (10:38-32)
 - How did Moses honor Hobab?
 - What was the basis of Moses' invitation?
 - How can you relate to this situation?

#My Jubilee Bible

Numbers chapters 11-21 From Bad to Worse

- Complaining, grumbling, mutiny and rebellion may not seem like what you would expect to see in the story of God's people. They were slaves, now they're free on the outside, but Egypt still has a hold on their hearts.
 - What are some lessons that you can learn about relating to God through life?
 - What are some ways that Israel could have responded differently during times of deprivation from water, or in the absence of food variety?
 - How do you respond to God when it seems like provisions are running out?
 - How does your faith do when it looks like there are big challenges to the things God has called you to do?
- There are several examples of mutiny and rebellion (the 10 spies, Miriam and Aaron, and the sons of Korah).
 - On a human scale how did Moses handle these challenges to his leadership?
 - How did God respond to these challenges to His leaders?
 - We all have leaders who have been placed in our lives. Most of us didn't get to choose our bosses.
 - How do you approach disagreements with those who are leading you?
 - What are some ways that you have learned to honor God while disagreeing with your boss?
- When leadership challenges came to Moses and Aaron, how did they respond?
 - When you have employees who complain about your leadership how do you demonstrate humility?
 - How do you pray for those who may be struggling with the leadership you are providing?
 - What are some things Moses models for you as a leader?
- Moses was not allowed into the Promised Land because he dishonored God by striking the rock rather than speaking to it. (Numbers 20)
 - What does it look like for you to seek God for leadership decisions?
 - How do you honor God in carrying out those decisions?
 - What are some ways you have failed to honor God with your leadership?
 - What does it look like for you to repent?

#My Jubilee Bible

CG Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: Take a moment to explain BLESS, then ask: Who did you BLESS this week?

Read Numbers 13:25-33

- How did faith factor into the two reports?
- How did faith affect the way Israel saw their enemies? How about the way they viewed themselves?
- How do you think faith affects the way you receive information?
- What do you do when situations make you feel small and grasshopper-like?

Read Numbers 14:1-4

- It's easy to read this account through the rearview mirror of history. Look back over your life, what are some circumstances that you have faced that look more like Israel?
- What circumstances make you want to give up?

Read Numbers 14:5-10

- What are some circumstances where you have been more like Joshua and Caleb?
- What gives you courage to keep going?
- How has God intervened in your circumstances?

Read Numbers 14:11-12

- How does Israel's response affect God?
- What surprises you about God's response?
- What concerns you about God's response?

Read Numbers 14:17-19

- What encourages you about Moses' prayer?
- How does Moses prayer reflect on God's self-revelation in Exodus 34:6-7?
- What are ways that your prayers are shaped by God's revelation through His Word?
- Read Hebrews 7:25. How does the fact that Jesus makes intercession help you to deal with times when you struggle with faithfulness?

Pray for one another:

- Pray for people who are going through faith-defying circumstances.
- Pray for people who may be struggling with fear.
- Pray that we will be people like Caleb in Numbers 14:24; people of a different spirit who follow Jesus fully!

#My Jubilee Bible

Notes: