

Numbers



8.30/10.30/5/7 Gatherings

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

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i This short series of bible studies is designed to accompany the sermon series on Numbers. They can be done either individually, or with a friend, or in a homegroup.

Talk	Title	Bible Study	Title
<i>Numbers 1</i>	Why are we so obsessed with numbers?	<i>Numbers 10:11–11:35</i>	"Are we there yet?"
<i>Numbers 13-14</i>	Why won't we trust God?	<i>Numbers 20-21</i>	"We're not gonna make it"
<i>Numbers 25 & 31</i>	Are we really that bad?	<i>Numbers 27</i>	The next generation
<i>Numbers 35</i>	Is the promised land really that good?	<i>Numbers 33</i>	Looking back and looking forward.

Each study is divided into 3 sections:

1. Getting started

This will help you open up some of the issues that the passage will address

2. Examining the passage

This will help you to focus on specific passages, to think about their meaning, and to try and understand what God's word is teaching us

3. Drawing some conclusions

This will help you to apply God's word.

Each study concludes with a reminder to pray.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1 Are We There Yet?

Numbers 10: 11 - 11: 35

1. Getting started

Think about a time when you've been on a long journey. What was the best thing about it? What did you find hard? How did you cope? How did your travelling companions handle the stresses of the journey?

2. Examining the passage

The Israelites are on a long journey. God has rescued them from slavery in Egypt to bring them to the Promised Land of Canaan. Along the way He has brought them to Mt Sinai, where He has revealed Himself to them.

Focus on 10: 11-36

How does Moses feel about the journey that lies ahead? What would you find hard to believe about what Moses is saying? What might change your mind?

Focus on 11: 1-35

Why do you think the people are complaining? Are their demands reasonable? Why or why not?

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How does God respond to their complaints? What do we learn about God from His response?

How does Moses respond to their complaints? What does God do about Moses' response?

Why does Joshua react the way he does? What do we learn from his response?

3. Drawing some conclusions

What lessons should we learn from how each of the characters act (the Israelites; Moses; Joshua; God)? What changes in your attitude or conduct might help you to avoid repeating their mistakes?

Spend some time praying for each other.

2 “We’re not gonna make it” Numbers 20-21

1. Getting started

What do you find hard about being a Christian? What challenges do you struggle with most? What’s helped you to overcome them?

2. Examining the passage

We’ve already seen how this current generation of Israelites will not enter the Promised Land because of their sinfulness (Numbers 13-14). Here we see more dangers that they face on their journey.

Focus on 20: 1-13

How does Moses disobey God? Why is it so offensive in God’s sight? What’s the punishment?

Focus on 20: 14-21

The Edomites are descendants of Esau (see Genesis 36) and therefore related to the Israelites. Why do you think they are so antagonistic?

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Focus on 21: 4-9

The Israelite rebellion against God is an ongoing theme! What do we learn about God from the way He reacts to their complaints? How does Jesus interpret this passage in John 3: 1-21?

Focus on 21:21-35

Like Edom, Sihon and Og refuse to let Israel pass. This time, however, the outcome is different. Why? Why don't the Israelites leave any survivors? (Hint: see Num 21: 1-3)

3. Drawing some conclusions

Look back over your notes from this study. What have you learned about overcoming the struggles of the Christian life? How might you put those lessons into practice?

Spend some time praying for each other.

3 The Next Generation

Numbers 27

1. Getting started

What do you look for in a leader? Who have been the great leaders in your life, and why?

2. Examining the passage

The Israelites are almost at the Promised Land, and are starting to anticipate what life will be like when they finally arrive.

Focus on 27: 1-11

Why do you think these daughters of Zelophehad were so anxious? What does Moses' judgment say about what life in the Promised Land should be like? What does it say about Moses as a leader of God's people?

Focus on 27: 12-23

Moses himself won't actually enter the Promised Land (see Numbers 20: 1-13). What does this tell us about the nature of sin and the sovereignty of God's plans?

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How do you think Joshua felt about being anointed as Moses' successor? Who chooses Joshua (and what's the significance)? How is Joshua to lead God's people? How will his leadership be different from Moses'?

3. Drawing some conclusions

What kind of leaders do God's people need? If you're in leadership, are you conducting yourself in a manner worthy of your commission?

Spend some time praying for each other, and especially for the leaders of God's people

4 Looking Back and Looking Forward Numbers 33

1. Getting started

Tell the story of how you came to faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. What significant events and people did God use? What have been high and low points for you?

2. Examining the passage

This passage gives us a chance to look back at the recent history of the Israelites, as well as to look forward to what God has promised to them.

Focus on 33: 3-4

How did their journey begin? In what circumstances? Who made it all possible? What does it tell us about how we enter (and stay!) in a relationship with God?

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Focus on 33: 50-56

What are the Israelites to do to the inhabitants of the land? What reasons does God give, and what do they tell us about God? How do you think the Israelites felt about their task?

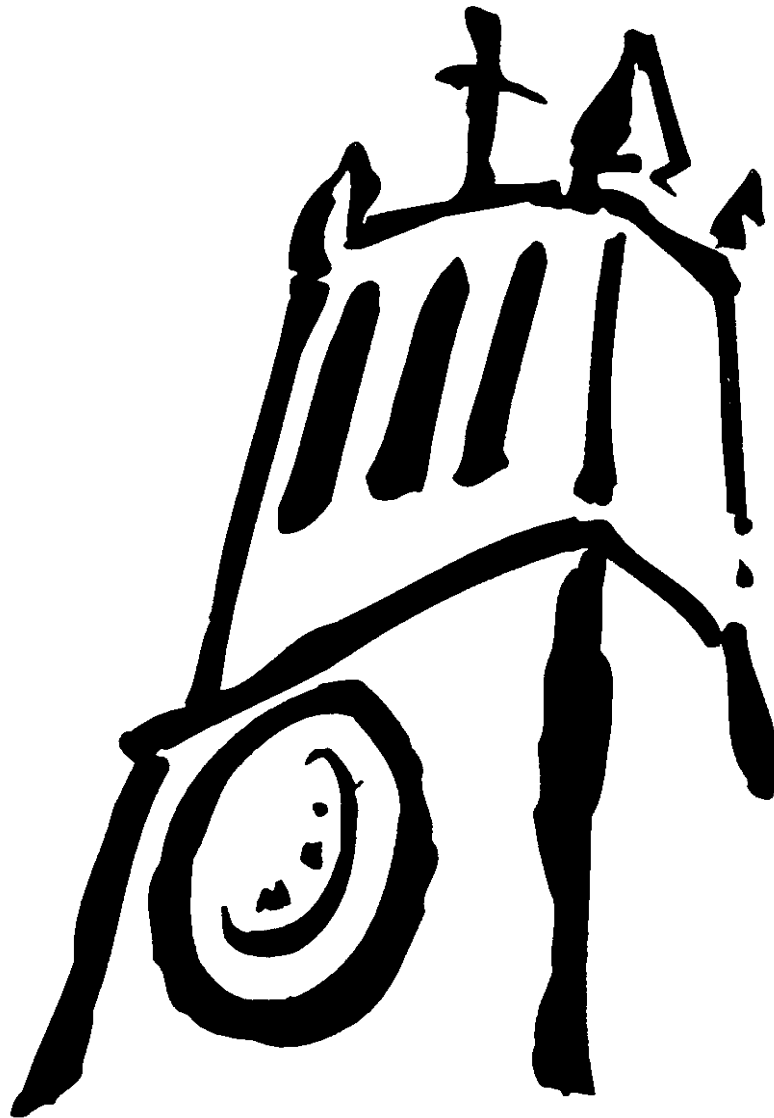
What are the Israelites to do once they've conquered the land? What do we learn about God from this process?

3. Drawing some conclusions

How does looking back at God's dealings with His people in the past both comfort and challenge you?

How does looking ahead to what lies in store for us as God's people both comfort and challenge you?

Spend some time praying for each other



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