

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE: WEEK FIVE // NUMBERS

KEY UNDERSTANDING OBJECTIVES

1. The book covers the journey of Israel from Mt Sinai to the edge of the Promised Land
2. Why the generation that left Egypt did not enter the Promised Land
3. The binary truth of God's wrath and His grace

ACTIVITY 1

[This book covers the journey of the Israelites from Mt Sinai to the edge of the Promised Land]

Look at the map below. Read the following scripture references and mark where they took place on the map, with their corresponding number:

1. Where the first census of Israel took place (1:1-2)
2. Where the spies returned to Moses and the people after spying out the land (13:25-26)
3. The area where the Israelites wandered for 40 years as judgement (14:33)
4. Where Aaron died (20:23-29)
5. The direction Israel took to head towards the Promised Land and avoid Edom (21:4-5)
6. Where the second census of Israel took place (26:1-4)



[<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/600001466744176642>]

ACTIVITY 2

[Why the generation that left Egypt did not enter the Promised Land]

Observe

Read Numbers 13 and 14

(Take note of the process of sending spies out, their report, the impact of their report amongst the people, and the consequence for their actions.)

Understand

1. What were God's instructions to the 12 leaders sent out to spy the land?
2. What do you notice about the two different reports brought back by the spies? (ie. Caleb and Joshua / the other spies)
3. Read 14:7-9
 - a. What are the elements of Caleb and Joshua's report which demonstrate their faith in God?
4. What do you think was the underlying cause for the 10 spies to bring a bad report?
 - a. How did their report impact the nation?
5. Because of the people's rebellion against God, what is their judgement?

Apply

Don't we all desire to be like Caleb and Joshua, rather than the other 10 spies!

- How can it be possible to walk in FAITH, even in the face of FEAR?
- Is there an aspect of God's character that you sometimes find difficult to trust?
 - For example: that He is all-powerful, that He is always with you, that He cares about your battles
- What can you do to strengthen your trust in Him?
 - Is there someone you can talk to?
 - Is there a scripture you need to memorise and meditate on?
 - Is there an action you need to take to step out in trust and obedience, despite feeling fearful? Who can help support you in this?

ACTIVITY 3

[The binary truth of God's wrath and His grace]

Observe

We see many times in the book of Numbers that God issues a judgement upon the people for their wrongful actions and attitudes, but that He also withholds the full extent of punishment and offers grace. Read the following examples of this binary truth of God's character and identify what the person/people did wrong, evidence of God's WRATH and also evidence of His GRACE in the situation.

- Numbers 11:4-34
- Numbers 20:2-13
- Numbers 21:4-9

Understand

1. What do you come to understand about God's wrath from these passages?
2. What do you come to understand about God's grace?
3. How do 'wrath and grace' fit together as both being part of God's character?
4. What questions do you have about these two qualities of God?

Apply

Often people will say that the God of the Old Testament is an angry, wrathful, harsh God compared to the God they read about in the New Testament. How would you respond to someone who makes that statement?