

## 6

## JOURNEY: Numbers

Key Word	Key Passage	Key Themes	Key People
<b>Obedience</b>	"If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us." (14:8)	Census Rebellion Wandering	Joshua Caleb Balaam

*"In Genesis God elected a people, in Exodus He redeemed them, in Leviticus He sanctified them, and in Numbers He directed them." (Bruce Wilkinson, Kenneth Boa)*

1. Opening Exercise:
  - Select the response below which best describes yourself: "When faced with an unexpected problem, I tend to..."
    - a. \_\_\_ Imagine the worst
    - b. \_\_\_ Hope for the best
    - c. \_\_\_ Seek realistic solutions
  - Share your response with your table group
  
2. General Background: The Book of Numbers
  - a. Name: census (numbering), 1445 B.C. – chapter 1
  - b. Hebrew name: "In the Desert"
  - c. Geographically: begins at Mt. Sinai; ends on the Plains of Moab
  - d. End of book (ch. 26) – Second census (1407 B.C.)
  
3. Historical Background
  - a. Israelites journey from Desert of Sinai to Desert of Paran
  - b. God is getting the people ready to enter (invade) the Promised Land
  - c. Purpose of Census: evaluate what size army they can raise
  - d. Also getting organized for invasion
    - Placement of the tribes around the Tabernacle
    - Marching formation

4. Exploration of the land
  - a. Appointment of 12 spies; gone for 40 days
  - b. Chapters 13 and 14
    - Majority Report
    - Minority report
      - Joshua
      - Caleb
      - “God is with us”
  
5. Joshua and Caleb: avoid two things:
  - a. Rebellion (14:9a)
  - b. Fear (14:9b)
  - c. **Discuss:**
    - Is disobedience primarily rooted in rebellion or in fear?
  
    - What is the relationship between fear and faith?
  
    - How do we overcome fear so we can act in faith?
  
6. Consequences
  - a. 14:23 – “Not one of them will ever see the land I promised...”
  - b. 14:20 - “I have forgiven them. Nevertheless...”
  - c. A second census: 601,730 (Num. 26:1-2, 51)
  
7. Share and Prayer
  - If you had been one of the 12 spies who explored the Promised Land, which report would you have endorsed?
  
  - Is there some challenge in your life that you have been avoiding because of fear? To the degree that you are comfortable, share this challenge with your table group. Pray for one another re: these challenges.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next Week: Deuteronomy</b> Read chapters 29 and 30</p>
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