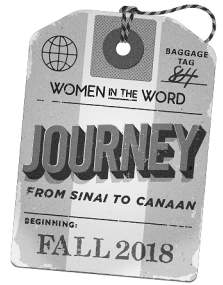


Women in the Word Numbers 15–18

October 23, 2018



1. Even though the Israelites have rebelled against God previously on their journey, what encouragement do you see in Numbers 15:1-2?
2. In Numbers 15, God trains the next generation of Israelites regarding the sacrifices that are part of His covenant relationship with Him. God gives them additional instructions in Numbers 15:37-41. Read these verses and describe the visual reminder He instructs His people to wear.

Of what should this symbol remind them?

Just like the Israelites, we are also prone to forgetting God and His truth as we live our busy lives. Name some of the ways you can remind yourself every day of His presence and His truth.

3. Who is stirring rebellion among the people of Israel in Numbers 16:1-11?

As they confront Moses and Aaron, what do you think is their motive?

According to Numbers 16:11, whose leadership are they really rebelling against?

4. Describe Moses' interaction with the sons of Eliab in Numbers 16:12-15. What is their charge against Moses?

Look back at Moses' response in verses 4-5 and 15. Compare Moses' heart as a leader to the hearts of those that are confronting his leadership.

5. Read the remainder of Numbers 16 and record an attribute or characteristic of God you see displayed and/or a lesson for us to learn from the following verses.

vv. 16-19

vv. 20-24

vv. 25-35

vv. 36-40

vv. 41-50

6. What stands out to you the most as you think about this story of God's people rebelling against Him again?

How can we as God's people prevent our hearts from being hardened to Him?

7. According to Exodus 28:1 and 29:44, who established Aaron and his sons as priests over the nation of Israel?

A rod or staff was the sign of a man's position. Summarize God's instructions to Moses in Numbers 17:1-7.

What will be the significance of the staff that sprouts?

8. Read Numbers 17:8-13. How is Aaron's priesthood irrefutably confirmed to the nation of Israel?

In verse 10, God directs Moses to keep Aaron's staff. Why?

Where will it be kept?

9. Read Deuteronomy 10:2 and Exodus 16:33-34 and record what else resides with the Ark of the Testimony.

What might these symbols represent to the nation of Israel?

Consider your own journey with God and share some reminders of His great work in your life.

10. Read Numbers 18:1-6. As priests for the nation of Israel, Aaron and his sons had great responsibility as well as great privilege. The Levites are described as a gift to them in verse 6. Who is the giver of this gift?

Now read Numbers 18:7-20. What phrase is repeated in verses 7, 12 and 19?

List the gifts they were given in verses 7, 12 and 19. Who is the giver of these gifts?

According to verse 20, what is the ultimate gift given to the priests of Israel?

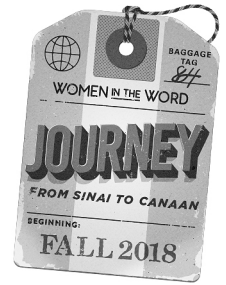
As you think about God's care for His priests, what words come to mind that describe Him?

11. Read 1 Peter 2:5, 9-10. As New Testament believers, we also serve as priests in God's kingdom. What are some of the generous gifts that God has given as you serve in His kingdom?

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Women in the Word Numbers 19–21

October 30, 2018



1. In Numbers 19, God continues teaching the Israelites to recognize the difference between clean and unclean so they can live as His nation. Read the following verses and record the circumstances that rendered an Israelite unclean.

v. 11

v. 14

v. 16
2. Physical death represents the ultimate consequence of sin. Thus, contact with the dead symbolized contact with sin and made the person unclean. God instituted laws to remove their uncleanness and restore their communion with Him. Read Numbers 19:1-6 and describe the animal that would be sacrificed to purify this uncleanness.

From verses 5-6, record what would also happen to this animal.

3. Read Numbers 19:9 and 17-19. How would the person who had contact with a dead body become clean and restored to community with God and His people?

Today we are not bound by Old Testament statues and laws. Read Hebrews 9:13-14 and share God's plan today for each of us to be cleansed and restored to fellowship and service to Him.

4. Thirty-eight years elapse between Numbers 19 and 20. It is a discouraging time as the generation that refused to trust God and take the Promised Land is dying. Read Numbers 20:1-5 and note who dies at Kadesh.

List the things the thirsty Israelites do and say in response to the water shortage.

We know that our words flow from what is in our hearts. Think about the Israelites' complaints and actions, and list some of the things that may have been in their hearts.

5. Read Numbers 20:6-9 where Moses and Aaron respond differently to the water shortage. Contrast their response to the Israelites' response.

What was the immediate response of God?

6. Reflect on your current circumstances and consider any resources that are missing from your life today. What can you learn from Moses and Aaron and also from Philippians 4:6-7 about responding to these shortages?

Write down some ways you could approach God and address your need.

7. God has a plan to provide for the Israelites' needs. Look carefully at Numbers 20:8 and list the detailed steps God commands Moses to take.

Now read Numbers 20:9-13 and record the steps Moses actually takes.

What words of Moses communicate impatience and disobedience?

When God provides for His people, His power, holiness and glory are beautifully displayed. How do you think Moses and Aaron failed to uphold God as holy in this instance?

What is the consequence for their disobedience?

8. As the disobedient generation is dying off, Moses plans to approach the Promised Land through Edom, but the King of Edom refuses them passage. During this discouraging time, Aaron dies. Read Numbers 20:22-29. What specific instructions does God give Moses in verses 25-26?

How would the people be encouraged and comforted as the High Priest's garments are placed on Aaron's son Eleazar?

9. Read Numbers 21:4-9. In your own words, describe the Israelites' behavior.

In spite of their rebellion, what do you see in verse 7 that suggests the Israelites are growing in maturity?

God instructs Moses to craft a bronze serpent, which demonstrated God's mercy and grace. If the people would exercise faith in God and look to the bronze serpent, they would live. Read John 3:14-16 and describe how God demonstrated mercy and grace that heals and gives life today.

10. Read Numbers 21:21-26. What favorable events take place for Israel?

11. Read Numbers 21:31-35. As the Israelites face another hostile king, what does God promise?

12. These last events happen toward the end of the 40-year journey, east of the Jordan River. The Israelites would be able to look across the river to the Promised Land. How would these victories stir their confidence in God?

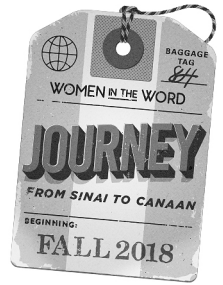
Write down some examples of God's mercy and grace to the Israelites in all these events.

Write down some examples of God's mercy and grace to you in the last few chapters of your own life. Thank and worship Him.

13. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Women in the Word Numbers 22–25

November 6, 2018



1. “Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing” is a popular Christian hymn. One of the powerful lines in that song is, “Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love.” What are the situations where you feel most “prone to wander” from God’s best in your life?

2. Before we read about the main character in the next few chapters of Numbers, look up these verses about Balaam and record what you learn about him.

Deuteronomy 23:3-5

Joshua 13:22 and 24:9-10

2 Peter 2:15-16

Revelation 2:14

3. Read Numbers 22:1-6. What is driving King Balak’s actions to hire Balaam to curse Israel?

One of the consequences of giving in to fear is to make poor choices. What steps do you take to weaken the power of fear in your life?

What did King Balak fail to realize about God’s command regarding the country of Moab and its city named Ar? Read Deuteronomy 2:9.

What truths might we overlook about God when we face overwhelming obstacles?

4. Read Numbers 22:7-21. What was King Balak using to “sweeten the deal” for Balaam to curse Israel?

What signs do we have that Balaam was eager to go to Moab?

5. Read Numbers 22:22-40. How do we know that Balaam’s motives are not godly ones after reading these verses?

What word does God use in verse 32 that describes the way of Balaam?

Balaam appears to confess his sin in verse 34, but what is missing in his confession?

6. We see Balak and Balaam high on a hill looking down on some of the people of Israel in Numbers 22:41 and Numbers 23:1-6. Read these verses. Balaam believed in the existence of Israel’s God, but he believed in many false gods as well. As you look closely at Numbers 23:4, what does Balaam appear to be placing his hope upon for God’s approval? Also read Hosea 6:6.

In what ways are we tempted today to make this same mistake?

7. Read each oracle of Balaam and summarize the ways God had blessed Israel.

Numbers 23:7-12

Numbers 23:13-26

Numbers 23:27–24:14

8. Blessings were heaped on Israel instead of curses. The story of Balaam illustrates the fact that God can control evil to accomplish His purposes. How does Romans 8:28 help explain this reality?

Can you share a time when God has brought something good out of something bad in your life?

9. Balaam's final oracle was an unsolicited word from God concerning Israel and Moab. Read Numbers 24:15-25. What words would you use to describe God?

How is the coming King and Messiah of Israel described in verse 17? Also read Matthew 2:2; Revelation 22:16 and Hebrews 1:8.

10. Balaam would become an instigator of Israel's future sins with Moabite and Midianite women. See Numbers 31:16. List all the reasons for God's anger against Israel after reading Numbers 25:1-3.

Israel's sins serve as a warning to us. How can we guard ourselves from temptations that turn us away from God according to 1 Corinthians 10:6-13?

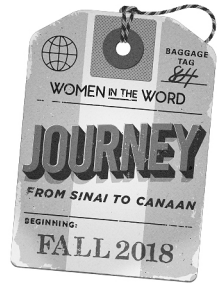
11. Read Numbers 25:4-13. Consider this scene of open rebellion as Israel wept before the Tabernacle. Why did God reward Phineas for what appears to be a violent act?

12. How has God blessed us and what is the appropriate response to these blessings? Read 1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-16.

13. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Women in the Word Numbers 26–29

November 13, 2018



1. As Numbers 26 opens, Israel is ushering in a new generation. This new generation would lead them out of the wilderness and into the Promised Land that their parents and grandparents had been talking about their entire lives. If you were tasked with preparing this new generation, what would be the single most important thing you would want to teach them and why?

2. Read Numbers 26:1-4. God is again asking Moses to take a census of young men 20 years and older who are able to go to war. Who would help Moses with this new census?

Look back at Numbers 1:1-3. Who helped Moses with the first census that was taken in the wilderness of Sinai?

3. Much of the older generation of Israel died from natural causes, wars or accidents, but according to the following portions of Scripture, how did many Israelites die?

Numbers 11:1-2

Numbers 11:32-33

Numbers 16:31-35

Numbers 25:1, 9

4. Glance over Numbers 26:5-51. According to verse 51, how many military-aged males did the census reveal? How does this compare to the number of military-aged males in the first census recorded in Numbers 1:46?

What does this tell you about God's plans for His people? Read Job 42:1-2 for insight.

5. Recurring sin and rebellion were a consistent theme as the Israelites journeyed toward the Promised Land, but so was God's grace and mercy. How does this encourage you as you reflect on your own spiritual journey?

6. Read Numbers 26:52-56. How will the land be divided when the Israelites cross the Jordan and enter the Promised Land?

Continue by reading verses 57-62. Who would be excluded from this division of inheritance? Why would they be excluded according to Numbers 18:20-24?

Of those included in the census taken by Moses and Aaron in the wilderness of Sinai, most would not be included in the one taken by Moses and Eleazar in the plains of Moab near Jericho, and would not be entering the Promised Land. According to verse 65, who are the only two from the first census who would enter the Promised Land?

What occurred in Numbers 14:1-9, 30 that ensured these two would enter the Promised Land?

7. Continue reading about the Israelites' inheritance in Numbers 27:1-11. Briefly describe the situation brought to Moses' attention by the daughters of Zelophehad.

How did Moses handle their concerns in verse 5?

8. Read Numbers 27:12-23. What is the message the Lord gives Moses in verse 13?

Look back at Numbers 20:2-13 and describe the event that occurred at the waters of Meribah of Kadesh, and explain why that event had disqualified Moses from leading the Israelites into the Promised Land.

What stands out to you in Moses' response recorded in Numbers 27:15-17? Refer to Philippians 2:3-4 for insight.

9. How is Joshua described by God in Numbers 27:18?

What else do we learn about Joshua from the following portions of Scripture?

Exodus 17:8-10, 13; Exodus 24:13; Joshua 1:5 and Joshua 24:2, 15

10. Numbers 28 and 29 focus on how the Israelites were to worship with eight different offerings given at specific times and special occasions. Read Numbers 28:1-8 and describe the details of the daily offerings.

How might you remember and worship God in the morning and again at night?

Skim through Numbers 28:9–29:40. These offerings involved several different types of sacrifices and each sacrifice fulfilled a different purpose, but they each had one common goal to worship the Lord. The phrase “pleasing aroma to the Lord” is used seven times in these two chapters. In your own words, explain how their sacrifices would be a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

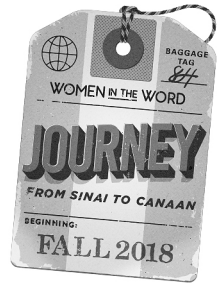
11. Because of the once-and-for-all sacrifice made by our High Priest, Jesus Christ, we no longer must follow the strict rules of worship laid out in Numbers 28 and 29. According to Romans 12:1-2, how should we worship the Lord?

Think of an area of your life that is not currently a “sweet aroma to the Lord.” What steps will you take to transform every area of your life into a living, holy and acceptable sacrifice to God?

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Women in the Word Numbers 30–36

November 27, 2018



1. God continues to give final instructions to the Israelites in these last chapters of Numbers. In chapter 30, God's commands are about keeping your word. Read Numbers 30:1-2. How important to you is keeping your word? How do you feel when someone breaks a promise to you?

Why do you think keeping your word or vow is such a big deal to God? Read Proverbs 10:19-21 and Ecclesiastes 5:2-6.

How does Jesus simplify this subject? Read Matthew 5:37.

2. Read Numbers 31:1-4. What was to be Moses' last assignment before his death?

Review Numbers 25:1-3, 16-18, and then read Numbers 31:5-7. This holy war was part of the punishment God had declared against Midian for leading Israel into sin. What elements do you see in Numbers 31:6 that also indicate this is a holy war?

Continue reading Numbers 31:7-16. Why is Moses justifiably angry with the Israelite army?

Both the justice and goodness of God are seen throughout Numbers. In spite of their lack of complete obedience in destroying the Midianites, how does God give Israel a great victory? Read Numbers 31:48-49.

3. Read Numbers 32:1-5. What land do the tribes of Reuben and Gad want as their inheritance?

What motivates this request?

Read Numbers 32:6-15. What are some reasons Moses does not like their request?

What event is Moses referring to in Numbers 32:8-13? Review Numbers 13:22–14:4.

4. Read Numbers 32:16-27. Summarize the assurances the leaders of Reuben and Gad give to Moses and the response and warning Moses gives to them.

Read Numbers 32:28-33 and list the people to whom Moses tells of this arrangement in verse 28. Why do you think this action is significant?

How can accountability with a fellow Christian encourage your walk with the Lord?

5. In chapter 33, God directs Moses to list the places the Israelites have journeyed from the time they left Egypt until their arrival on the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho. Skim through verses 1-49. What emotions, memories or thoughts about God might the Israelites have as they remember these places?

What are some ways you remember God's blessings, directions or answered prayers in your life?

How do you share these memories with your family, children or friends?

6. As the time for entering the Promised Land draws near, God now gives the Israelites specific instructions when they enter Canaan. Read Numbers 33:50-53. List the actions God tells the Israelites to take when they cross the Jordan into Canaan.

Why are these things important according to Numbers 33:55-56?

Read Numbers 33:53-54. How are they to divide up the land?

7. In Numbers 34:1-15, God gives the borders of the Promised Land. What is one thought that comes to mind as you read these verses?

According to verses 16-18, who are the men God appoints to divide up the land?

8. Read Numbers 35:1-3, 7. How many cities were to be given to the Levites in which they would live and care for their livestock?

These cities would be located throughout all the tribes of Israel. Why do you think this is a good arrangement?

9. Chapter 36 deals again with the inheritance of the daughters of Zelophehad from Numbers 27:1-11. Read Numbers 36:1-3 and describe the concern of the clan of Manasseh.

In Numbers 36:5-9, Moses once again goes to the Lord for counsel and God gives His command for the daughters to marry within the tribe of Manasseh. According to verses 10-13, how do the daughters respond to God's command?

What all do you see in this story that points to the Israelites' journey ending on a high note?

10. Take a few minutes to think back over your study of Numbers. What have you learned about God's character, attributes or desires?

What have you learned about yourself from this study of Numbers? Be specific.

How will these things you've learned change the way you journey with the Lord?

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.