

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Bible Study Notes

Intro Question: What's one food you are sick of eating?

Pray: For God to help us understand the book of Numbers for our lives.

Read: Numbers 11

Context:

- Do a quick recap of the Sunday sermon.

What does the text say & mean (observe/comprehend):

- Why does God's anger burn against Israel? Notice where his judgement falls at the beginning of the chapter & at the end.
- The wilderness gets hard, where do Israel long for? Why is this crazy?
- Who are Israel listening to and who do they complain to?
- What/how does God provide for his people (including Moses)?

How does the text point forward to Jesus:

- Consider the connections between Numbers 11 & John 6:35-40.

What does the text mean for us (apply):

- What do you long for when life is hard? And what complaints do you make about God in your head/heart. What does this show about our hearts? What should we do instead?
- What/how has God already provided for you?
- Consider 2 Cor 5:1-10. How do we live by faith rather than sight?

Pray: that we would be a people who trust God in faith

Homework: Read Numbers 11-15

Remind: fill out AM survey

Praying to see 10% of the northern suburbs in gospel-centred churches & 250 by 2030 at Village Church who grow, gather, give & go, in love & joy to the glory of God

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Numbers is the fourth book in what is called the “Pentateuch”, the five books of the Torah. These serves as the foundational books of the people of Israel, giving context to their relationship with Yahweh, the God who is and who created all things.

Numbers takes place in the Wilderness. Between the Exodus, where God rescues Israel out of slavery to Egypt, and the Promised Land, where Israel will experience the fullness of God’s blessings. After rescuing Israel, Yahweh covenanted with Israel. He promised them blessing but in response requires obedience to his good law. The question of Numbers is, will Israel trust God and obey? Or will they rebel as they have already done in Exodus and Leviticus. And, how will God respond if they do?

For Christians today. We too live in the wilderness. In the time between our salvation by faith in Christ, and our enjoying the fullness of eternity in the promised land of the new creation. We too are called to obey Christ by faith.

Context:

- **Do a quick recap of Sunday sermon**

God has rescued his people to bless them with his presence, his people in his place.

What does the text say & mean (observe/comprehend):

- **Why does God’s anger burn against Israel? Notice where his judgement falls at the beginning of the chapter & at the end.**

God’s anger burns against Israel because of their rebellion. Israel shows us the very heart of sin - it is rebellion against God, a lack of trust (when they have every reason to trust), a willingness to listen to fools (the rabble) and to complain, but not to God, just about him.

At the start of the chapter - God’s anger burns only the outskirts of the camp. This is a gracious warning from God that Israel is flirting with danger. By the end of chapter 11, he struck the people directly for their sin.

- **When the wilderness gets hard, where do Israel long for? Why is this crazy?**

They long for Egypt. Where they were in slavery and where their children were being murdered. This is the nature of sin, we often don’t think wisely.

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- **Who are Israel listening to and who do they complain to?**

It is the 'rabble' who incite Israel to complaining. These are most likely people on the fringe of the camp who aren't necessarily Israelites (they are outsiders). Notice, they don't bring their concerns or even complaints to Moses, instead they just wail outside their tents.

- **What/how does God provide for his people (including Moses)?**

God provides meat for Israel, despite their sin/lack of faith. He also provides Moses with support despite his lack of faith through anointing the elders of Israel. You could also argue that God provides through warning his people in the first few verses.

How does the text point forward to Jesus:

- **Consider the connections between Numbers 11 & John 6:35-40.**

Jesus is the greatest provision of God. He gives us the thing we need most - forgiveness for sins and eternal life. We can lack in every other thing as long as we have Jesus.

What does the text mean for us (apply):

- **What do you long for when life is hard? And what complaints do you make about God in your head/heart. What does this show about our hearts? What should we do instead?**

Do you long for entertainment, or comfort food, or other physical things when life is hard? Consider what you long for and what you complain to God about not having. It often shows that our hearts still turn towards worldly desires rather than God. We should come to God with our longings and complaints in prayer and in reflection. Remembering what God has already provided for us.

- **What/how has God already provided for you?**

Reflect out loud all the provisions of God - including the physical (our daily bread) but most of all, the spiritual provisions we receive in Jesus.

- **Consider 2 Cor 5:1-10. How do we live by faith rather than sight?**

Consider your complaints and longings. How do we keep looking forward and trust in God's provision rather than what we might be lacking materially right now. Encourage one another with ideas or strategies.