



Dig Into the Word

January 6-7, 2018 • Daniel Downey

Why Study the Bible?

1. It helps us “see” (understand) the things that matter most (eternal things).
2. Through it we come to know God and understand His character.
3. Cultural literacy. It is the most quoted, bestselling, history shaping book of all time.
4. We discover the “fine print” of life.

What’s the context of the passage (and how can I discover this)?

- Study Bibles with notes (Ryrie Study Bible)
- Commentaries (Matthew Henry online)

What does it say (what did it mean to the original audience)?

What does it mean for me?

How can I apply it?

What's the context of *Numbers 20*?

1. Where are the People of God?

IN THE WILDERNESS OF ZIN, WITHOUT WATER.

2. Why are they there?

**THEY FAILED TO ENTER THE PROMISE LAND.
(NUMBERS 13)**

What does it say?

Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. They quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the Lord!

Numbers 20:2-3

Rather than accept **RESPONSIBILITY** for their choices, they **BLAME** Moses.

They **FORGOT** the number of times God has already delivered them.

Why did you bring the Lord's community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!"

Numbers 20:4-5

Verses 4-5: They ask "**WHY**" instead of "**WHAT**."

Verse 4: They get **DRAMATIC**.

Verse 5: They **ROMANTICIZE** the "**GOOD OLD DAYS**."

Verse 5: They **CONFUSE** the issues.

The Lord said to Moses, “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.”

So Moses took the staff from the Lord’s presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, “Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

Numbers 20:7-11

Moses treats God like a **FORMULA**, or **MEMORY**.

God asks Moses to do something **EMBARRASSING**.

What does it mean?

WHEN LIFE IS DIFFICULT, IT IS EASY TO BLAME, ASK “WHY,” GET DRAMATIC, GET NOSTALGIC, CONFUSE THE ISSUES, OR TREAT GOD LIKE A FORMULA, BUT HE MIGHT BE ASKING US TO DO SOMETHING UNCOMFORTABLE.

How can I apply it?

Under pressure, do I blame others?	YES	NO	MAYBE
Do I tend to forget God’s faithfulness?	YES	NO	MAYBE
Do I get hung up on the “why?”	YES	NO	MAYBE
Do I overreact?	YES	NO	MAYBE
Do I get nostalgic?	YES	NO	MAYBE
Do I confuse the issues?	YES	NO	MAYBE
Do I treat God like a formula?	YES	NO	MAYBE
Do I need to do something uncomfortable?	YES	NO	MAYBE

Application/Discussion Questions

1. Do you, by nature, tend to blame others for your own faults, or conversely, do you tend to assume that everything is your fault? Why?
2. Are there areas in your life where you are hung up on the “why?” If so, what are they?
3. In what situations do you find it easier to turn anywhere but to God?
4. Are you living in the past? Or, are you living in the future? Why?
5. Have you ever fallen face-down (*Numbers 20:6*) before God, without saying anything, and basked in His glory?
6. Have you ever sensed that God is asking you to do something uncomfortable or unusual? If so, what?
7. Read *Numbers 21:4-9*, then read *John 3:14-16*. What did the bronze snake represent? How does Jesus also represent this? (Hint: *2 Corinthians 5:21*)

For a Bible reading plan, go to: venture.cc/resources and download the Venture Journal



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