

READING PLAN + STUDY QUESTIONS

Numbers

READING PLAN OVERVIEW

- **SESSION 1:** NUMBERS 1-12
 - JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS
- **SESSION 2:** NUMBERS 13-21
 - THE TWELVE SPIES + THE BRONZE SERPENT
- **SESSION 3:** NUMBERS 22-36
 - BALAAM, BALAK + PHINEHAS

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

- 1. READ THE GENRE + BOOK OVERVIEW ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE**
- 2. READ THE CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE FOR EACH SESSION**
- 3. READ THE CHAPTER SUMMARIES ON [EVERYDAYSCRIPTURE.ORG](https://everydayscripture.org)**
- 4. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS + REFLECT ON THE READING**

This study encourages going at your own pace, allowing each session to be a day, a week, or however long you need. Each session contains questions to be used for individual reflection or small group discussion.

This study was made to be used alongside Bible reading. Although we have created chapter summaries, there is no substitute for reading God's Word.

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- What type of literature is this book of the Bible? Does that affect the interpretation?
- Who is the intended audience of this book? What purpose does it serve?
- What does this passage of Scripture reveal about God's character?
- What can I learn from this Scripture passage? How does it apply today?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Everyday Scripture: Numbers](#)
- [Everyday Scripture: Old Testament Law](#)
- [The Bible Project: Numbers Overview Video](#)

GENRE OVERVIEW: OLD TESTAMENT LAW

The first five books of the Bible – known as the books of the law or the Pentateuch – tell of the creation of the earth, the fall of man, and God’s pursuit of restoration with humanity. This section of Scripture contains epic stories that reveal God’s faithfulness and expose the sinfulness of humanity. God establishes His chosen people and leads them on a treacherous journey out of oppression and into His provision.

Throughout Scripture, God uses unlikely people to fulfill His purposes, including Abraham, Noah, and Moses. God makes covenants with His people, desiring that they would follow Him alone and live in righteousness. Although humanity consistently fails to be faithful, God remains steadfast in His love and mercy.

BOOK OVERVIEW: NUMBERS

The Israelites continued their journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land. While facing oppression and challenges along the way, many Israelites lost faith in God’s provision, causing them to remain in the wilderness. Despite the many setbacks, there remained a few faithful men who believed they would see God’s promise fulfilled.

MAIN IDEA: KEY EVENTS + KEY PEOPLE

In the book of Numbers, two Israelite spies, Joshua and Caleb, went to check out the Promised Land of Canaan. The older generation of Israelites rebelled against God and were no longer allowed to enter the Promised Land. Joshua and Caleb were the exceptions; they were allowed to enter because of their faithfulness and trust in God’s provision.

God instructed Moses to gather the people and speak to a rock from which water would come. Instead of following God’s instructions and simply speaking to the rock, Moses hit the rock twice with Aaron’s staff. As a result of their disobedience, Moses and Aaron were not allowed to enter Canaan.

God sent poisonous snakes to attack the Israelites for their disobedience, but He gave Moses a bronze snake as the antidote. This event occurred in Numbers 22 and was later referenced by Jesus.

God used some incredible signs to get the Israelites’ attention. For example, a group of rebellious people were swallowed up by the earth, and the prophet Balaam had an encounter with a talking donkey!

SESSION ONE: NUMBERS 1–12

JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

- At the beginning of Leviticus (the previous book of the Bible), God spoke to Moses from the Tent of Meeting. Read Numbers 1:1. Where did God speak to Moses this time? What does this say about the result of obedience?
- As the Israelites traveled, why would God place the Tabernacle and the priests in the middle of the formation?
- Of the Gershonites, Kohathites, or Merarites, which group held the position of greatest honor?
- Read Numbers 6:2. What was the purpose of the Nazirite vow?
- When the Israelites celebrated Passover, what act of God were they remembering (see Exodus 12)?
- Why would God desire that the items in the Tabernacle be ornate and beautiful?
- In Numbers 12, why do you think God responded harshly to Miriam's words towards Moses' wife?

SESSION TWO: NUMBERS 13–21

THE TWELVE SPIES + THE BRONZE SERPENT

- **Read Numbers 13:30–31. What report did the spies bring back to Israel? How did Caleb disagree with the other spies? Who was more trusting of God?**
 - **How can the faith of Joshua + Caleb provide encouragement for today?**
- **In Numbers 14, the Israelites complained that they would have been better off as slaves (or even dead) than wandering in the wilderness. Have you ever romanticized the past instead of hoping for what God has ahead?**
- **Why did God require the Israelites to practice the Sabbath? What does it say about God that He commands rest?**
- **Korah, the Kohathite, rebelled against God because he wanted even more responsibility and authority. What important role did Korah already have?**
 - **In what areas do you feel entitled or distrusting of God?**
- **In Numbers 20, why did God no longer allow Moses to enter the Promised Land?**
 - **Does this event seem arbitrary compared to the harsh consequence?**
- **Why would God continue giving the Israelites instructions for purification and cleanliness surrounding death?**
- **How did Moses and the bronze serpent foreshadow Jesus on the cross?**
 - **Read John 3:14–15.**

SESSION THREE: NUMBERS 22–36

BALAAM, BALAK + PHINEHAS

- Why do you think God would use a donkey to speak to Balaam? What can you learn from his story of speaking curses over God's people?
- Balaam faced pressure from Balak to do the opposite of what God had directed. Have you ever been in a similar position?
- Based on the inheritance of Zelophehad's daughters and the laws about vows, how does God value and honor women?
- Do you think it was challenging for Moses to appoint Joshua as the leader of the Israelites? Would Joshua be allowed to do what Moses was not?
- Based on what the spies had previously told the Israelites, how do you think they felt when God told them it was time to overthrow Canaan?
- What does it say about God's character that He wanted to provide cities of refuge for those who had committed accidental sin?
- God wanted to remove the Midianites from Canaan, but some of the women remained. How do you think they will influence the Israelites?