

Numbers for grumblers



Materials for group meetings

1st Meeting **THEME: Count your blessings!**

Prepare Pray for your meeting. If possible, read Numbers 1-6. And the Numbers for grumblers 'book-overview'.

Icebreaker Take a few moments of silence. How have you experienced God's faithfulness recently? Share.

Pray Ask God for His Holy Spirit to speak to you through His Word today.

Bible passage Read Numbers 1:1-4 and Numbers 6:22-27 (read the passages twice).

Numbers 1:1-4

These verses are remarkable. In Genesis (12:2, 15:5) we read about an old Abraham, without children, receiving God's promises. And see now, how faithful God has been! What God said, has happened (see also Genesis 15:13-14). In Exodus (40:35) we see that Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting. The holy God was the Redeemer of an unholy people. Can these go together? In Leviticus we read a lot about atonement, so that God and man can have peace. And now: God speaks to Moses in the tent of meeting!

- Share further observations, lessons or questions.

Numbers 6:22-27

The blessing is bookended with words that remind us of the work of a shepherd: keep (protect/fence at the outside), give peace (provide/bless at the inside). Twice we are reminded of the face of the Lord, both times showing favour: shine (in contrast with look with a dark face at someone), lift (willing to look at you). At the heart of the blessing is unmerited grace – you may not deserve it, but wholeheartedly he is loving you. The light of God's favour falls on his people (as the lampstand in the tabernacle shines its light in front of it on the bread (see Num. 8:1-4 and Ex. 25:30-31), which represents God's people. Remember: if the result of God's blessing of one couple (Abraham & Sarah) was so huge, what may we expect if such an amount of people is going to be blessed!

- Share further observations, lessons or questions.

Digging deeper: Count your blessings!

- Wherein are you currently challenged to trust and believe God? Do you believe God bless you in this situation? What would be good to pray for you?

Take some minutes of silence and then share briefly. Each time that a group member has shared, one or two of the group might pray for him/her briefly.

End with a closing prayer by the group leader.