

Numbers for grumblers



Materials for group meetings

5th Meeting THEME: The end of grumbling

Prepare in prayer. If you have time, read Chapters 20 & 21.

Icebreaker Something costs you much more (time/energy/money) than you initially thought. Take a few moments of silence to ask yourself these two questions: a) have you experienced that (recently)? b) how are you inclined to respond to that? Share briefly.

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

Introduction to today's Bible passage: Today we look at a new generation. In chapter 20 we see how the old generation was passing away (Miriam, Aaron, even Moses wouldn't enter into the promised land). The old generation had not been able to enter because of their unbelief. After the report of the spies, they had said that their children would become a prey in that land and would die there. Then God decided that the old generation would stay in the wilderness. However, they gave it a try to enter (without God's blessing), but they were defeated at Hormah. See chapter 14, esp. vs. 39-45: defeated even to Hormah. In chapter 21:1-4 we see that the new generation conquers and is able to move on after Hormah.

Bible passage Read Numbers 21 : 4 – 9 twice

Look again at Numbers 21:4-5

- It would take Israel longer to get into the promised land. What strikes you in how they respond?

Look again at Numbers 21:6-7

- After God sent fiery serpents, Israel responds again. What strikes you in this response?

Look again at Numbers 21:8-9

- Share what you see/learn/observe/wonder in these verses.

God didn't take away the serpents, but gave a way to receive healing and to overcome, when people were bitten by the serpents. The bronze/copper serpent reminded them of God's promise in Genesis 3:15 (read this verse). By looking at the serpent, they were reminded of their own sin and they were receiving new faith in God's promises. And soon after this we read that Israel sings again (21:17). The last time we heard Israel sing was in Exodus 15!

Lesson: the one who does no longer judge God, but rather is aware that God could judge him/her, stops grumbling. The one who sees that though God could judge him/her, but offers life and healing, begins to sing and praise.

- Read John 3:14-16. We are able to see even more than Israel saw there. What should we see here?

Digging deeper: The end of grumbling.

Take some moments of silence. What, from this meeting, do you really want to keep with you the upcoming time? Share &

End with prayer.