



## Study Guide

### Numbers 1-4

#### Getting Organized for the Journey

Numbers is the 4<sup>th</sup> book of the Torah (Law) written by Moses. The Hebrew title, “Bemidbar” means, “in the wilderness”.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:6-10 and discuss why it’s important for us to learn about Israel’s journey in the wilderness.
2. Read Numbers 1:1-3. Why do you think the people had to be prepared for warfare? How does that apply to our spiritual walk today? Read 1 Corinthians 16:13. What does it mean for you to get organized around spiritual warfare?
3. Read Numbers 2:1-2. Notice that Israel was to each “*camp facing*” the tabernacle of God. As soon as they opened the front of their tent, they could see the pillar of God. What could it mean for you to be positioned facing God every day? How does that work for you? Discuss.
4. Read Numbers 3:4. Notice that Nadab and Abihu were struck dead for offering unauthorized fire for the incense. As priests they were to model the sacredness of handling access to God. Read 1 Peter 2:5. Notice that the priesthood has been relegated to the church. Discuss the sacredness of representing God and the gospel to others. How do our behaviors affect the credibility of the gospel? Discuss.
5. Numbers 4 describes the roles of the Levite clans, Kohath, Gershon, and Merari. They were responsible to transport the tabernacle to its new location each time God moved. Imagine if one of them failed to do their job, or was bored or found it insignificant. Discuss how our lives should be organized around serving the body of Christ, and how what each of us do is significant.

## Conclusion

Chapters 1-4 are about being organized for the journey. Share one thing that you may want to change around getting your life organized for the journey:

1. Prepared for warfare
2. Positioned to face God
3. Respectful of representing God
4. Faithfully doing my part

## Numbers 1-4 Organized

Numbers 1:1

"The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,"

Authorship: Moses

Date: ca. 1405 B.C.

Title: "Bemidbar" (*Hebrew*)- "In the wilderness" (48x).

Why read Numbers?

1. God Revealed Himself to Humanity.
2. Israel's Experiences are for us.

1 Corinthians 10:6-10

<sup>6</sup> Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup> nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

What's the Story?

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Year 2 (Chapter 1-19) 1st generation: Rebellion & death in the wilderness.

Years 3-39: Wasted years

Year 40 (Chapters 20-36) 2nd generation: Inherit the land.

Big Idea: Get organized for the journey.

A. Be Part of the Group (1:1)

Numbers 1:1

"The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,"

Ephesians 4:11-13

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

## B. Be Prepared for Warfare (1)

Numbers 1:2-3

"Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head. From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel who are able to go to war, you and Aaron shall list them, company by company."

Descriptive: Laws for protection & cleanliness.

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Prescriptive: Spiritual protection and cleanliness.

1 Corinthians 16:13

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."

## C. Be Positioned to Face God (2)

Numbers 2:1-2

The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, <sup>2</sup> "The people of Israel shall camp each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers' houses. They shall camp facing the tent of meeting on every side.

## D. Be Respectful of God (3)

Numbers 3:4

But Nadab and Abihu died before the Lord when they offered unauthorized fire before the Lord in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests in the lifetime of Aaron their father.

Exodus 30:9, 34

"You shall not offer unauthorized incense on it, ... Take sweet spices...stacte, onycha, galbanum...pure frankincense...(of each shall there be an equal part) and make an incense blend...It shall be for you holy to the Lord.

Observation:

1. Beginning of Theocracy- Nadab and Abihu
2. Beginning of Monarchy- Uzzah
3. Beginning of Church Age- Ananias and Saphira

What about today?

1 Peter 2:5- "...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

E. Be Active Doing your Part (4)

Numbers 4:49b

"...each one with his task of serving or carrying..."

Big Idea: Get organized for the journey.

John 3:14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent, so must the Son of Man be lifted up..."

1 Corinthians 10:4 "...and the rock was Christ."

The New Testament Church: 1 Peter 2:9

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

1. Part of the Group- One in Christ
2. Prepared for Warfare- Victory in Christ
3. Positioned to Face God- Christ our mediator
4. Respectful of God- Christ tore the veil
5. Do your Part- Body of Christ

Communion