



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 9, Day 1 --- Numbers 7

Week 9, Day 2 --- Numbers 8-10

Week 9, Day 3 --- Numbers 11-13

Week 9, Day 4 --- Numbers 14-15 - Psalm 90

Week 9, Day 5 --- Numbers 16-17

Week 9, Day 6 --- Numbers 18-20

Week 9, Day 7 --- Numbers 21

Week 9, Day 1 --- Numbers 7

Repetition is important. Take the time to read through every description. What do you discover? Think about the time that it took to write out all these descriptions with a quill and ink on parchment, a lamb's skin. Why does God have Moses write all of this out for the people to remember?

Week 9, Day 2 --- Numbers 8-10

I can't imagine what it would be like to shave my whole body, especially with a sharp knife. I do know that if I went through that I would know that I was doing something very special. It was important for the Israelites to get their religious practices established before they began to move in the desert. In their first year they have built the tabernacle, dedicated the Levites, and celebrated their first Passover. Now they are ready to begin the journey to the Promised Land.

There are many times when I think I would like God's guidance to be as clear as the cloud over the tabernacle. The truth is that His instruction in the Bible is that clear and I tend to ignore more than obey. There are times when we need to make a decision between options and we do desire guidance. The Bible clearly instructs us to seek guidance when making an important decision. There is an important lesson on guidance here in Numbers 10. In addition to the cloud Moses was on speaking terms with God. In spite of this, or because of this, Moses asks his brother-in-law Reuel to continue traveling with them specifically to provide guidance on where to camp. Moses did not ignore the desert expert that God had provided. Sometimes we are so determined that God will not speak to us that we ignore the help He has already provided in a person who has traveled the way we're going before.

Week 9, Day 3 --- Numbers 11-13

Sometimes we think that if God would just show His power to everyone that everyone would submit to Him and the world would be perfect. These three chapters illustrate that this isn't true and never has been true.

God fed the people every day. They got the same thing every day, but they got perfectly nutritious and tasty food that they only had to gather. How did they respond to this super-natural provision? They complained. Be very careful what you complain about and what you ask God for. I think that God's anger burned hottest against those people who were so focused on the quail that they totally turned away from God's presence in the tabernacle in the middle of their community. Some people died

because their hunger for quail completely eliminated their hunger for God. What do you get hungry for that leads you away from God?

Aaron and Miriam had a different kind of hunger. They wanted recognition. Miriam was apparently at the center of their rebellion and she is the one who receives the punishment. She does get recognition, but not the kind that she was looking for. She and Aaron were very fortunate that they had a humble and forgiving brother.

Chapter 13 is a turning point in the book. The people have come to the edge of the Promised Land and God has them send in spies to see what this new land is like. Based on the report that comes back from the spies what do you think the people are going to decide to do? Should the people have any doubt about God's power to lead them into the new land?

Week 9, Day 4 --- Numbers 14-15 - Psalm 90

Sometimes the minority is right. That was certainly true in this case. Ten spies said the land couldn't be conquered and the people believed them. Caleb and Joshua confidently proclaimed the goodness of the land and the power of God. They were right, but the people chose to believe the majority and rebelled against God.

These people were not put behind bars, but they were given a death sentence. They were condemned to wander around the wilderness until everyone over 20 had died. Only Caleb and Joshua and their families would live, and even they were condemned to 40 years in the wilderness. When God says, "God and I will be with you." it is best to go.

The reminder about sacrifice is a reminder about God's desire for relationship. Everyone sins, but not everyone sins in full defiance of God's desire. God is basically warning that sacrifice is only beneficial to those who desire to do His will and desire a relationship with Him.

The way Moses prayer is put together is a very good way to pray. Moses starts his prayer by recognizing who God is. He continues by confessing the sin of the people, including himself. Finally, he asks God for a blessing. Try praying today and begin by telling God what you know about Him.

Week 9, Day 5 --- Numbers 16-17

What do you learn about God in this story? It is important to understand who God is. The first thing I see is that God is sovereign. This means that God is always in charge. God may have delegated authority to Moses and Aaron, but when they people rebelled against them they were rebelling against God. The second thing I see is that God is incredibly powerful. He can do for real, things that we can only imagine. I see that God can be angered. When God's anger and His power come together dramatic things happen to the people who have made Him angry.

What does it take to get your attention? If you are determined to do something bad what has to happen to stop you? For most of us, it takes a significant event to stop our willful rebellion. It is important to remember in this story that there is a group of over one million people who will have to live together under God's rule for 40 years in the wilderness if they are ever to make it into the Promised Land. God wants them to know that He loves them, but they are throwing a temper tantrum. They disobeyed God and now they don't want to deal with the consequences. How would you get the attention of over one

million people who are acting like whiny 3-year olds? Every time I read this I'm amazed at God's patience in working His plan so that Jesus could come and we could all come into His presence through Jesus.

#### Week 9, Day 6 --- Numbers 18-20

God's design was that there would be designated people who would focus on serving Him and His people. They wouldn't have to earn a living in the conventional way because they would be provided for by the people they served. So the priests and the Levites were to live on the sacrifices and offerings brought by the people. The amount they received was a percentage of what the people earned. If the people prospered then the priests prospered. If the people were impoverished then the priests were impoverished.

Many people today still don't understand the concept of germs or bacteria. God doesn't provide the people with the science, but rules surrounding death are designed to protect the people from disease.

Much time has passed by the time we reach chapter 20. The people have been wandering in the wilderness almost 40 years and Moses and Aaron are very frustrated with them. When the people complain because of lack of water Moses and Aaron do the right thing and turn to God. God's response is full of grace and He instructs Moses and Aaron to speak to the rock and water will pour out. It is supposed to be very clear that it is God who is providing the water. Instead, Moses and Aaron gather the people and then Moses strikes the rock with his staff claiming credit for producing the water. It was a big mistake. God still provided the water, but Moses would not get to lead the people into the Promised Land. Moses was still very special to God, but there are consequences to our sin. This story is always a reminder to me that no matter how long I have loved and served God I must still obey. I want to finish well and receive all that God has promised.

#### Week 9, Day 7 --- Numbers 21

The conquest of the Promised Land begins in this chapter. However, before it begins the Israelites must once more deal with the issue of who is in charge. Once again the people complain. They have been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. Everyone who was 20 years or older when they arrived at the Promised Land the first time has died. The oldest of the group had lived in Egypt, but only as children. Still they want to go back there.

They want to return to slavery rather than trust in God. This scene must have been incredibly frightening. Poisonous snakes enter the camp and begin to bite the people. As usual, they don't cry out to God, but they do cry out to Moses to cry out to God. God hears and provides a solution. It seems a very odd solution since God has instructed the people not to make idols. The snake represented everything that was evil. Satan is often described as a serpent. I think God is asking the people to be totally honest and look directly at the cost of their sin.

In John 3:14 Jesus looks back to this event. The bronze snake on the pole is a picture of Jesus on the cross. To come to God and be healed we must look at the cost of our sin. The Israelites looked at the snake on the pole and we must look at Jesus on the cross.