

The Promised Land



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church

Week 2: March 18–24, 2017

Day 1

March 20



Pray | Thank God for providing on our wilderness journeys.

THE ISRAELITES EXPERIENCED trials on their journey through the wilderness. Frustrated and impatient, the Israelites, including Moses, disobeyed God.

Now year forty, post-Exodus, the Israelites are ready to arrive at the land flowing with milk and honey. In Kadesh, there was no water. They argued with Moses and Aaron, questioning their guidance to such a desolate place.

Moses and Aaron fell before God, and God commanded them to speak to the rock before their community to pour out water. However, an exasperated Moses found sustenance his own way and instead struck the rock with his staff to ask for water. While water still poured out, God punished such disobedience. He kept Moses and his people from the fast route to the Promised Land.



Read | Numbers 20:1–20



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

The people of Israel knew God promised the land ahead. However, they had doubts in this place without water. What places in life have you felt thirsty for more? How did that impact your view of God?

Moses was told one thing by God but chose to do the other, still battling his anger with God through their journey. Have you ever chosen to do the wrong thing out of bitterness or anger? What were the consequences?

Edom comes off as rather inflexible and in need of God's grace in verses 18 and 20. Is there an Edom in your life that needs to see the light of Christ through you?

At the end of the lesson, Moses attempts to negotiate with the king of Edom to pass through their land. He was both peaceful and respectful, but he was turned down and driven out by an army. Even after our best negotiation, we may get through the King's Highway. However, God has it all mapped out.

Day 2

March 21



Pray | Ask for forgiveness over any sin filling your heart.

The Israelites Are still on their way to the Promised Land and have become impatient, rebuking their God and his servant, Moses, leading to punishment.

In Day 1 of this week's readings (Numbers 20:1–20), we learned that the Israelites earned their ticket to a long route to the Promised Land due to all their disobedience. Now everyone is crabby and impatient as they go around the land of Edom. They complain about their manna and the lack of sustenance.

This is not just flatbread these people are complaining about. They are blaspheming the Bread of Life, God. And what is God's response? He sends a bunch of poisonous snakes, which bit and killed many of their people.



Read | Numbers 21:4–6



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

When have you allowed impatience with God's work in your life to cause you to grumble about what he has done?

God had provided his people with food, clothing, and more during this journey, yet they took it for granted. What gifts have you taken for granted on your journey?

God is always at work. He responds to our sin and our prayers. He hears our blasphemes and our praises. Imagine your thoughts are words spoken across the table over coffee with God. What are you saying to your Savior?

Day 3

March 22



Pray | Pray that more people will cry out and come to know God.

THE ISRAELITES REALIZE their sin and cry out to Moses for forgiveness. Moses prays for them to the Lord, and God responds with a way for restoration.

There is a realization of disobedience and a cry for help. God responds to Moses' prayer over his people when they realize the cost of their sin.

God had Moses create the bronze serpent and declares that anyone who sees the snake shall live. And he asks that they really see the snake, to fix their eyes upon it, and focus on what they've done and what they need from God. And as promised, God healed them.



Read | Numbers 21:7-9



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

It takes a lot of guts to admit you're wrong. It takes a lot of guts to admit you have sinned. Reflect on a time that's been hard for you, the cost of it all, and what decisions you had to make.

How does God respond in this passage? How has he been faithful to respond to you?

What do you see as the big message in God's command to look at this metallic snake? What is God trying to communicate to the Israelites? What is he trying to communicate to you today?

Day 4
March 23



Pray | Praise God for lifting up His son.

THE STORY OF the bronze serpent is brought to the New Testament. God's big message in Numbers is spoken by Christ in the gospel.

Moses's lifting up the serpent in the wilderness is referenced as Jesus speaks of the need of Christ to be lifted up. Whoever believes in Christ lives. In the wilderness, God gave Moses the resources and abilities around him to speak to the need of something greater, something that focuses their attention on something beyond their natural understanding: the need for Jesus' death and resurrection. In the dry deserts and long journeys and walks through the wilderness, God's people must look up to the One who had to be lifted up to save us in our wildness and wilderness.



Read | John 3:14–15



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

The Bible is a beautifully written book. Take some time to reflect on God's sovereignty in writing through history to speak to us as his children. The healing through the serpent was part of the Old Testament, and the healing through the Spirit comes in the New Testament.

Why do you believe the Son of Man had to be lifted up? Why is this essential in our understanding of faith?

God says that whoever believes is saved. Do you believe that is true for all people? Do you believe that you qualify for such grace and love? (See today's Scripture passage.)

Day 5

March 24



Pray | Pray for opportunities to spread the gospel.

A BEAUTIFUL GIFT of new life and new responsibility is granted to those who believe and establish a relationship with Jesus.

In today's Scripture verses, Paul writes that since we now have this awesome new relationship with Jesus, we have this awesome new role as ambassadors for Christ.

An ambassador is a powerful representative, delivering the power and opportunity to speak of God's goodness, of his Good News, of his kingdom. This, again, is a gift and responsibility to share with the nations.

Paul references exactly what this message is. As he reminds us of our duties as new believers and as ambassadors, he reminds us of the beautiful gospel message, one that we need to continue to hear and to deliver to the people in our offices, homes, and communities.



Read | 2 Corinthians 5:20–21



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

What does this passage say about who God is?

Think about the life you live right now. Where and how can you be an ambassador right where you are today?

How has God spoken to you in new ways through this passage? The gospel never changes, but God can speak to us and remind us of his goodness in new ways through different chapters of our lives. How will you bring what he's sharing with you into your day?

Portions of this study were adapted from Ed Stetzer and Trevin Wax, eds., The Gospel Project Chronological: God Delivers, Vol. 2, Adult Personal Study Guide ESV (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2015). Used by permission.

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