

## Session 6: Wanderings

### Scripture questions:

Numbers 11:1-9

**How would you describe the attitude of the people? How do they describe their lives in Egypt? Based on what we know from our reading in Exodus, do the people give an accurate description of their lives in Egypt?**

Numbers 11:10-15

**How do you describe the attitude of Moses? How is his attitude like or unlike the people he leads?**

Numbers 13:1-3

Numbers 13:17-33

Numbers 14:1-9

**Why does God tell Moses to send spies into the city?**

**How do the majority of the spies describe the land?**

**Are the majority of the spies confident in God's ability to give them the land? Why or why not?**

**How are Caleb and Joshua different from the other 10 spies and the Israelites?**

Numbers 14:17-35

**Why is God angry at the Israelites?**

**What are the consequences for their actions?**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

**In this book, Moses and the Israelites are getting ready to cross into the land God promised to them. How did you feel when you read that Moses could see the land but was not allowed to enter into it?**

**How does this Scripture describe Moses?**

## **Introduction**

- **Pentateuch:** the first five books of the Bible.
- In the book of Numbers, Moses and the Israelites display a lack of confidence in God.

## The Israelites

- Moses led the Israelites from Egypt to the land God had promised them.
- The Israelites were ungrateful in spite of how God had led them, cared for them, and demonstrated His miraculous power.

## Moses

- Moses describes God as unjust and unfair. Moses, like the Israelites, showed incredible ingratitude for the way God had worked in his life and had used him to do great things.
- Moses demands that God do something or “kill him now!”

## Consequences

- The story of the spies illustrates the failure of the Israelites. For their ingratitude, God punished the Israelites by making them wander in the desert for 40 years.
- All of the older generation, except Joshua and Caleb, passed away in the desert.
- God wanted Israel to be a vehicle for His message of grace. He wanted to build a group of people who would share His light with the world.

## Moses' Death & Final Words

- From the top of the mountain, Moses could see the vast land that the people would inherit.
- After leading the Israelites for 40 years, he would not travel into this new land with them.
- Moses gave his final words, urging the Israelites to remember the covenant. If the people were faithful to God, He would take good care of them.

### Application Questions:

**The Israelites were forced to wander because they repeatedly grumbled against God. They lived off of God's goodness but failed to appreciate it. In what ways do you fail to appreciate God's goodness in your life? What does a lifestyle of appreciation to God look like?**

**Ten of the spies, who were sent to check out the land God had promised them, lacked confidence in God. How would you describe your confidence in God? How do you encourage confidence in God not only in your life, but also in the lives of others? What does a lifestyle of confidence in God look like?**