



Group Guide

The Book of Numbers

February 25, 2024

Main Passage: Numbers 1-2

Theological Theme

Although the Israelites sinned against God, He showed them mercy and grace. His plans were always for their best and His glory. He led them into the land He promised because He is faithful.

Introduction

- ? What is a funny name or nickname you have heard or have yourself?
- ? How have you seen the power in naming a person or thing?
- ? How have you seen people live in a way to match up to a name or nickname?

1. Why Numbers? (Numbers 1:1)

The book of Numbers begins where Leviticus ended, at the base of Mount Sinai. The Israelites had been delivered from bondage in Egypt and crossed the Red Sea on dry ground. Numbers covers the history of Israel during the wilderness wandering that resulted from their disobedience and lack of faith in the Lord when they arrived at the border of the Promised Land the first time. The Hebrew name for this book literally means “in the wilderness” and these chapters chronicle the journey of how God’s people ended up in the wilderness and how He took them from there to the promised land.

- ? What comes to mind when you think of the book of Numbers? What can make this book challenging to read? Why is it worth pressing through in every portion of Scripture?
- ? Why is it important that all these words came from the Lord not Moses? What difference do the origin of words—from God or man—make in your life?
- ? Application: What circumstance might God be using right now to shape and grow you for His purposes?

2. Counting and Organizing (Numbers 1:2-4)

When Moses met with the Lord in the tabernacle, God commanded him to take a census of all the males who could go to war. Remember this nation of people was not in the habit of fighting wars. They had been engaged as slave laborers in Egypt and God delivered them without any kind of physical battle taking place. So, it is interesting that God called them out as an army.

- ① God was preparing His people for what was to come. How has God prepared you in advance for things He knew were ahead for you but that you might not have seen at the time?
- ① When has God called you to a task you felt unprepared for? How has He provided in the areas where you were lacking?
- ① Application: How do you need to assess your spiritual inventory (and more importantly your needs) so you are better prepared for the spiritual battles coming your way?

3. Details Matter (Numbers 2:1-34)

The twelve tribes, excluding the Levites, camped in four groups of three tribes each, a different group on each of the tabernacle's four sides. The priests and the three clans of Levites camped on the four sides of the tabernacle but closer to the sanctuary than the other tribes. This arrangement placed God at the center of the nation geographically and reminded the Israelites that His rightful place was at the center of their life both personally and as a nation.

- ① What are some other examples you can think of where God created order out of chaos in Scripture? How has He done this in your life?
- ① What ways do people tend to base decisions on worldly wisdom instead of on the Lord's plans? When are you tempted to do this?
- ① Application: Where do you need to center your life on the Lord instead of other people or your circumstances?

Conclusion

- ① How is God working in your life to prepare you for something now?
- ① How have you seen God as faithful to keep His promises in your life, even and especially when you have not been faithful to Him?
- ① How can you seek gospel conversations with others by sharing about the book of Numbers?