

NUMBERS 4-9

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE



WEEK IN REVIEW

The book of Numbers began with a census and continues with instructions given on duties, offerings, holiness, celebrations, and more! Numbers 4 gives specific duties of the three clans of Levi. The **Levites** were a tribe set apart for sacrifice and service to the Lord, and they were in charge of the tabernacle. The tabernacle, also known as the tent of meeting, was a tent where God's presence lived as they headed toward the Promised Land. The clans consisted of Levi's three sons and included the **Kohathites**, the **Gershonites**, and the **Merarites**. The Kohathites were responsible for carrying the tabernacle furniture. The Gershonites were responsible for carrying the tabernacle coverings, including the curtains and the screen for the entrance to the tabernacle. The Merarites were responsible for transporting the boards and the pillars, which were the frames of the tabernacle.

We see some more instructions about holiness amongst the people of Israel. If the holy God lived in the camp, the people were called to be holy as well. There were rules about cleanliness, how the Israelites were to treat their neighbors, and guidelines for people who were married. There are also specific instructions for something called the **Nazarite Vow**. The word Nazarite meant to "separate", and the word vow means to promise. Any man or woman who took the Nazarite vow would promise to be different than everyone else. Taking this vow meant: they were not to eat anything produced by the grapevine including wine, they were to leave their hair uncut, and they were to avoid any physical contact with a dead body. The most famous people who committed to this vow were Samuel and Samson.

There were details about having a second Passover party, for those who were considered "unclean" and could not participate in the first one. The Passover took place in the book of Exodus when God raised up a man named Moses to deliver his people from slavery in Egypt. A series of plagues takes place, the final one being the death of the firstborn sons. God promised to save those who wipe the blood of a spotless lamb over their doorposts, so the angel of death would "passover" them and not take their lives. Numbers 9 is the only time the Passover feast was celebrated by the Israelites in the wilderness. Once the tabernacle was complete, there was a cloud that covered it that represented God's presence during the day, and a fire at night. When the cloud over the tent moved, they packed up camp and followed it. When the cloud stopped, the people stopped and set up camp again. The Lord was going with them to lead the way on their journey through the wilderness.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Levites were people set apart for sacrifice and service to the Lord
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Duties of the Levites● Nazarite Vow● Passover Party● Cloud Covering
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Numbers 6:24-26<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”● Numbers 8:10<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “You are to bring the Levites before the Lord, and the Israelites are to lay their hands on them.”● Numbers 9:15<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “On the day the tabernacle, the tent of the covenant law, was set up, the cloud covered it. From evening till morning the cloud above the tabernacle looked like fire.”
PEOPLE/ WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tabernacle<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A tent where God’s presence would live● Levites<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The tribe that was set apart for the work of priestly duties● Vow<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A promise

Reflection Questions

1.	What were the three clans of Levi? What were their roles?
2.	Who is someone in the Bible who took the Nazarite vow?
3.	What was the Passover? What was the Second Passover for?
4.	What represented God’s presence over the tabernacle during the day and night?