

NUMBERS 10-15

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

In Numbers, we have seen the Israelites (the Exodus Generation) receive instructions in the wilderness of Sinai before they head towards the land flowing with milk and honey. This was the **Promised Land**, which God promised Abraham all the way back in Genesis 12. There was a census taken, duties assigned, and God's provision made evident. As they leave Sinai and travel towards the wilderness of Paran, the Israelites are marked by complaining and disobedience. Over and over again we see rebellion of the people and then consequences for that rebellion. In Numbers 10, we see the trumpets blown and the cloud above the tabernacle lifted, signifying God's instruction to pack up and get on the road. This is the beginning of the greatest road trip of their lives, full of twists and turns, and ultimately a new generation taking over.

As they head out, the Israelites begin to complain about their current situation. They started to miss Egypt, and they were tired of this manna bread that God had given them so they asked for something better. God gave them quail to eat instead. God also appoints **elders** to help Moses lead the people. An elder is a leader who is responsible for caring for and protecting a group of people. We also see Miriam and Aaron (Moses' siblings) rebel against Moses. They begin to question his leadership and authority as a prophet of God. As a result of this, Miriam had to wait outside the camp for seven days and the people did not move until she was brought back in. The Lord instructed Moses to send out a leader from every tribe of Israel (12 total) to go scout out the Promised Land as spies. They were tasked to see what the land was like and what the people were like for forty days.

The men brought back a report for the entire Israelite community. They confirmed that the land is in fact flowing with milk and honey, however ten of them gave a bad report. They felt that land was filled with giants and comparatively they felt like grasshoppers. Only Joshua and Caleb believed that they could conquer the land because God was with them. The news of the bad report spread and all the people wept, complained, and once again wanted to go back to Egypt. God had already promised them the land, they just had to conquer it. Because of this, the Lord declared that the Exodus generation (the old generation) would not be the ones to enter the Promised Land. It would be the new generation known as the Conquest generation.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● God is bigger than the problems we face
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Silver trumpets and leaving Sinai● Complaining People● 12 spies sent out to Canaan● Rebellion and Punishment
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Numbers 10:11-12<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “On the twentieth day of the second month of the second year, the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle of the covenant law. Then the Israelites set out from the Desert of Sinai and traveled from place to place until the cloud came to rest in the Desert of Paran.”● Numbers 13:1-2<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “The Lord said to Moses, “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”● Numbers 14:22-23<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.”
PEOPLE/ WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Promised Land<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The land of Canaan, that was promised to Abraham and his descendants● Elder<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ An elder is a leader who is responsible for caring for and protecting a group of people.

Reflection Questions

1.	Where is the Promised Land first promised in the Bible?
2.	What is an elder? Why were elders appointed?
3.	What was the report from the spies who came back from the land?
4.	What were the consequences for the unbelief in this report?