

NUMBERS + DEUTERONOMY

WILDERNESS

FAITH

God's Plan Require Believers to Act on the Instructions He Gives.

Numbers 33:50-56;
34:13-15



God is shaping you
in the wilderness
for the life He's
calling you to.

Numbers 33:50-56; 34:13-15

50 And the Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying, 51 “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 52 then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places. 53 And you shall take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it. 54 You shall inherit the land by lot according to your clans. To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance. Wherever the lot falls for anyone, that shall be his. According to the tribes of your fathers you shall inherit. 55 But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell. 56 And I will do to you as I thought to do to them.”

¹³ Moses commanded the people of Israel, saying, “This is the land that you shall inherit by lot, which the Lord has commanded to give to the nine tribes and to the half-tribe. ¹⁴ For the tribe of the people of Reuben by fathers' houses and the tribe of the people of Gad by their fathers' houses have received their inheritance, and also the half-tribe of Manasseh. ¹⁵ The two tribes and the half-tribe have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, toward the sunrise.”

Scripture Memory

Numbers 14:18a (ESV)

The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
forgiving iniquity and transgression...

Write it out:

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Understand the Context

The Israelites are camped on the east side of the Jordan River, right across from Jericho. After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, they can finally see the Promised Land. Before they cross over, God gives Moses clear instructions about how to live in the land He is giving them.

God tells them to drive out the people who live there, destroy all idols, and possess the land. Then, in chapter 34, He gives detailed boundaries and tells them how to divide it among the tribes.

What's important here is that God's promises are not passive they require obedience and action. God had already promised the land, but His people had to follow His instructions to experience the fullness of that promise.

This is the heart of our devotional: God's plan always includes our participation. He does the leading, but we must do the following.

Explore the Text

- “Drive out” (v. 52) — to remove or push away completely. God calls His people to clear out anything that competes with His holiness.
- “Possess” (v. 53) — to take hold of what’s already been given. The land was promised, but the people had to move to receive it.
- “Distribute” (v. 54) — to divide according to God’s plan, not their preference.
- “If you do not drive out...” (v. 55) — a warning. Partial obedience leads to painful consequences.
- “Commanded by the Lord” (34:13) — a reminder that every step is based on God’s authority and plan, not human guesswork.

Day 1 – Clear Out What Doesn't Belong

Read Numbers 33:50–52

Devotional Reading:

Before the Israelites could enjoy the blessings of the Promised Land, they had to remove the things that would lead them away from God. He didn't want them to settle among idols or half-obey His commands.

God knew that if they left even a small part of sin or compromise, it would eventually control them. The same is true today. God calls us to act...to clear out the things that distract us from obeying Him completely.

Application:

What is one area of your life God might be calling you to “drive out”? Maybe a habit, attitude, or influence that's keeping you from full obedience.

Challenge:

This week, identify one distraction or “idol” and take a step to remove it maybe limit time on something, change a friend group influence, or confess something to God.

Day 2 – Take Possession of What God Promised

Read Numbers 33:53

Devotional Reading:

God didn't say, "I might give you the land." He said, "I have given it." The promise was certain, but the people still had to step forward in obedience to possess it.

Faith means acting on what God already said, even before we see the result. Sometimes we want God to make everything easy before we obey, but God calls us to move first and trust Him to provide along the way.

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Application:

Faith isn't just believing God's promises, it's walking into them. What's something you know God has called you to do but you've been hesitant to act on?

Challenge:

Write down one thing God has already shown you to do (a step of obedience, a change, or a next move). Then do it this week. Don't wait for "perfect timing."

Day 3 – Trust God’s Order and Placement

Read Numbers 33:54

Devotional Reading:

God didn’t let the Israelites pick their favorite part of the land. He determined where each tribe would go. This shows that God’s plan is not random, it’s intentional.

Sometimes we want control over where we end up, what school we go to, what team we’re on, or who our friends are, but God places us exactly where we need to be for His purpose. Our job is to trust His placement and act faithfully where He’s put us.

Application:

You may not always like where God places you, but you can trust that He knows what He’s doing. He’s working a bigger plan that you may not see yet.

Challenge:

Today, thank God for the specific place He has you, your school, your family, your team, and ask Him how you can serve Him right where you are.

Day 4 – Partial Obedience Brings Painful Consequences

Read Numbers 33:55–56

Devotional Reading:

God's warning was clear: if the Israelites didn't obey completely, the very people they tolerated would cause them pain.

God takes obedience seriously, not because He's harsh, but because He knows compromise destroys. When we only halfway obey, we leave room for sin to grow.

The Israelites eventually ignored this warning and the idols of the nations became their downfall. God's instructions are not suggestions; they are for our protection.

Application:

Is there an area where you've told God "later" or "just a little"? Delayed obedience is disobedience. God is inviting you to act fully.

Challenge:

Pray honestly and ask God to show you one area of compromise. Then make a plan this week to remove it completely, not halfway.

Day 5 – God’s Plan Always Comes with Purpose

Read Numbers 34:13–15

Devotional Reading:

Moses reminded the people that this land and these boundaries came straight from the Lord. Every detail was intentional. Even after all their wandering and rebellion, God’s plan was still moving forward.

That’s what obedience looks like, walking in the purpose God already set in motion. When God gives instructions, it’s not to control you, but to guide you toward His best.

God’s plan is not random or fragile. He knows where you belong and what He wants to do through your obedience.

Application:

Even when life feels uncertain, remember God is still in control. His instructions are part of His perfect plan for you.

Challenge:

Spend 5 minutes in prayer today asking God, “What are You calling me to do next?” Then commit to follow through with whatever He shows you.

This image shows a full page of primary-ruled paper. It features multiple sets of horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. The lines are thin and light gray, set against a plain white background. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

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