

DAY 1

Israel was rebellious, so God burned the perimeter of the camp ● Numbers 11:1-3

READ 🛄

Numbers 11:1-3

EXPLAIN ©

The truth of Numbers 11:1-3

At the first sign of trouble and discomfort Israel was ready to go back to Egypt. However, to reverse course and return to Egypt would have been to reject the LORD. God had promised goodness and blessing (10:32), but the people responded with rebellion and grumbling (11:1-3). By grumbling, or muttering bitter words, the nation of Israel gave voice to their own sinful heart. God had graciously led them out of Egypt, but instead of responding with love and obedience, they responded with anger and disobedience. They preferred slavery and the false gods of Egypt to the true God who had freed them by His powerful hand. Moses immediately interceded for the people through prayer (11:2). God was gracious and burned only the perimeter of the camp, although His punishment could have been much more severe (cf. Nadab and Abihu, Lev 10:1-3). Numbers 11:1-3 marks the first of seven rebellions recorded in the book of Numbers. This brief but wicked act of unfaithfulness demonstrates the general pattern of Israel's rebellion: (1) sin of the people; (2) punishment by God; (3) prayer to God; and (4) salvation.

ASK



- What did the Israelites do in Numbers 11:1? They grumbled about their perceived "misfortunes."
- Did the Israelites have any reason to complain?
 No. God gave them everything they needed
- 3. How did the Israelites reject God's provision?

 The people of Israel were not satisfied with what God had given them; they wanted more.
- 4. What did God do when He heard the Israelites' grumbling?
 His anger was kindled, and He sent fire to consume some of those living near the edges of the camp.

DISCUSS (



- 1. Talk about why the sin of grumbling is so offensive to God.
- Describe how God's punishment was severe but also filled with mercy.

DAY 2

Israel was faithless, so God killed those who complained • Numbers 11:4-35

READ



Numbers 11:4-35

EXPLAIN **②**

The truth of Numbers 11:4-35

Even after God demonstrated His own power and grace by burning the perimeter of the camp, the "rabble", the non-Israelites who left Egypt with Israel, complained, expressing their unhappiness with words (11:4; cf. Exod 12:38). Their discontent spread throughout the nation of Israel. By desiring what the LORD had not provided, they demonstrated a lack of faith in God. Therefore, the LORD promised to punish them by giving them such an abundance of quail 4. How did God punish those who complained that it would be as if it were coming out their noses. Moses himself also demonstrated a lack of trust (11:10-15; 22-23). The LORD responded to his first complaint by pouring out His Spirit on 70 elders of Israel (11:16-17, 24-25). The LORD responded to Moses' second complaint by sending an over abundance of quail. Using a wind, the LORD delivered a massive quantity of quail to the areas surrounding Israel's encampment (11:31). But before the people even had the chance to enjoy the meat, God struck them with a deadly disease. The anger of the LORD burned against the rebellion of those who had craved the meat (11:33).

ASK 🔞

- 1. Did the Israelites and those with them have any reason to complain about food? No.
- 2. How had God previously provided for the people? God had provided water, manna, and quail for the people on the way to Sinai (Exod 15:22-17:7).
- 3. What did God give the people because of their complaining about not having meat? God graciously provided quail.
- about not having meat? He punished the people with a severe plague.

DISCUSS (



- 1. Talk about what it means to complain and what God thinks about complainers.
- 2. Identify different ways your family has complained in the last week and talk about ways you can keep from complaining in the future.

DAY 3

Miriam and Aaron were prideful, so God struck Miriam with leprosy • Numbers 12:1-16

READ 📖

Numbers 12:1-16

EXPLAIN **©**

The truth of Numbers 12:1-16

The next rebellion sprang up from within Moses' family. Miriam and Aaron, Moses' sister and brother, opposed his leadership on the basis of his wife's ethnicity. After the death of his first wife, Zipporah, Moses married a woman from Cush (Ethiopia). Miriam's opposition to Moses revealed her prideful heart. Miriam and Aaron were both spokespeople for God, but by challenging Moses' unique relationship with the LORD, Miriam and Aaron revealed the pride rooted in their hearts.

The LORD's words to Aaron and Miriam affirmed His unique relationship with Moses (12:6-8). First, God called Moses "My servant", giving him a title of the highest honor (Num 12:7; cf. Matt 25:21, 23). Second, God told Aaron and Miriam that He spoke with Moses "mouth to mouth", not in visions or dreams (12:6, 8).To communicate directly with the LORD was a unique privilege. Therefore the LORD immediately punished Miriam, striking her with leprosy (12:10). Aaron quickly repented of his sin and begged Moses to not hold Miriam's sin against her (12:11). Moses listened to his brother, asking the LORD to heal Miriam, and God graciously provided for her healing (12:13-15).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 🔞

- 1. What did Aaron and Miriam do in Numbers 12:1? They spoke out against Moses. They were not trusting God's decision for Moses to be their leader.
- 2. How did God describe Moses? God described Moses as a faithful servant (12:7). Moses was more humble than anyone else on the earth (12:3).
- 3. What did Moses do when he saw that Miriam had been afflicted with leprosy? He prayed to God on her behalf. He had mercy on Miriam and wanted God to heal her.
- 4. What was God's answer to Moses' prayer? God healed Miriam.

DISCUSS



- 1. Miriam and Aaron were discontent with the job God had given them. Explain what this word means, using examples from your own life.
- 2. Describe Moses' response to Miriam's sin. Talk about how you can respond like Moses when others sin against you.

DAY 4

Israel's forgetfulness resulted in their rebellion • Psalm 106:13-15

READ



Psalm 106:1-15

EXPLAIN ©

The truth of Psalm 106:13-15

Psalm 106 rehearses God's mercy during Israel's history in spite of Israel's rebellion and sinfulness. Verses 13–33 remember the nation's wanderings in the wilderness. This section reveals that the reason for their complaining was their forgetfulness (106:13). Three days after crossing the Red Sea, Israel complained against God (Exod 15:22-25). Despite the great signs which God had done in Egypt and His provision between the Red Sea and Mount Sinai, Israel had not changed. Three days after leaving Sinai they continued their grumbling against God. The people doubted God's ability to sustain them and quickly complained against Him. They wanted meat and put God to the test. God gave them what they craved for, sending a massive amount of quail. However, He also sent a plague. There is a great sense of irony in that God gave them exactly what they asked for and it killed them. It is an important lesson for us to learn: we often forget God's blessings, craving for things that, in the end, never produce the outcome we had hoped for.

ASK 🔞



- 1. What were some of God's great works that the Israelites saw?
 - They saw the ten plagues, they saw God part the Red Sea, they saw God provide food and water for the people, and they saw God's glory over the tabernacle.
- 2. Why did the Israelites rebel against God? They forgot all the great works He had done.
- 3. How quickly did Israel rebel against God after leaving Egypt? They complained three days after crossing the Red Sea (Exod 15:22-25).

DISCUSS



- 1. Discuss ways you can actively remember God's blessings to your family.
- 2. Talk about how we can learn from Israel's example (1 Cor 10:6).

READ 📖

Hebrews 10:26-31

EXPLAIN **②**

The truth of Hebrews 10:26-31

This portion of Scripture deals with the sin of *apostasy*. This sin is an intentional falling away, or defection. from Christ. An apostate is someone who has heard and understood the gospel, and is on the verge of saving faith, but then rebels, turning away from Christ in rejection of Him and His word. Judas Iscariot is an example of this type of person. Apostates go on sinning, refusing to repent, demonstrating that they were never truly saved (1 John 2:19). They sin willfully, deliberately rejecting God. Their sin is habitual, not isolated acts of rebellion. There is no hope for this kind of sinner, because he has rejected the only sacrifice that can cleanse him from sin. There is only the fearful expectation of terrifying judgment (11:26-27). Sadly, this type of sinful rejection was displayed by many Israelites after their deliverance from Egypt. They witnessed the power of God but continually grumbled against the provision of God. However, God was merciful and patient with them, just as He is with all those who sin against Him.

ASK 🔞



- 1. What sin does this portion of Scripture address? The sin of apostasy.
- 2. What is apostasy? An intentional falling away, or defection, from Christ.
- 3. Who are two examples of apostasy? Judas Iscariot and the nation of Israel.
- 4. What does the apostate have to look forward to in Only a fearful expectation of judgment.

DISCUSS S



- 1. Explain what it means to "willfully" and "habitually" sin against God.
- 2. Discuss why there is no hope for an apostate.

NEXT WEEK

Israel rejects God's plan

Numbers 13:1-14:45

