

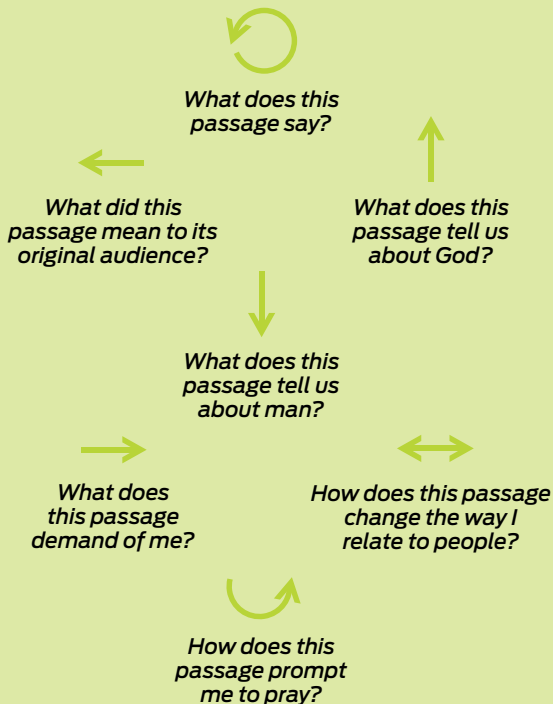
# Daily Devotions



Day 1

## Numbers 12:1-16

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



It was bad enough when the Israelites rebelled against Moses, but the rebellion of Miriam and Aaron surely hit him harder. Like we see happen in many confrontations, Aaron and Miriam hid the true motivation of their criticism behind a more palatable excuse: Moses' marriage to a Cushite woman. But that was not their main cause for concern. Rather, it related to Moses' role as God's primary spokesperson.

When Miriam and Aaron confronted the man God had chosen to speak for Him, God chose to speak for Himself. God pronounced judgement on them for their sin and in His anger, gave Miriam a skin disease. Aaron immediately repented and asked Moses to do something about Miriam's disease. God's servant responded by lifting his voice in intercession to God and Miriam was healed.

This account offers a picture of how we are to respond to God when He reveals Himself to us. God's self-revelation shows us two things: who He is and who we are. When we see God for who He is and what He has done, we can properly see ourselves for who we are.

**In what ways does seeing the truth of God's character humble you?**

# Numbers 13:1-33

The way God told Moses to send the Israelite spies into the land was a reminder to him and the Israelites of His promise to give them the land (Num. 13:2). The land of Canaan was a good land, flowing with milk and honey, which made it a land worth fighting for. God would drive the people out of the land so His people could take possession of it. They had nothing to worry about. Yet, they rebelled against God and refused to go into the land where they would have had rest and all of their needs provided for.

Later in Scripture, the land of Canaan is used as a picture of heaven—our place of rest. (See Heb. 4.) The Israelites had left slavery in Egypt and endured a trek through the wilderness to make it to the promised land, which their sin prevented them from entering. Likewise, through Jesus, we are freed from the slavery to sin, yet we continue to live in the wilderness—a fallen and broken world. However, in light of eternity, our journey to our promised land is short, and we are called to trust God in faithfulness as we journey on, placing our hope in His promise to bring us home to the place of our rest.

**How might the hope of what God has in store for you in heaven change the way you approach each day now?**

# Numbers 14:1-25

Faith in God leads to obedience to His commands. God has revealed Himself to us so that we would turn to Him in faith and love Him, and then through that faith and love, obey Him. But our obedience is short-circuited immediately when our faith erodes. Faithlessness hinders love, which in turn blocks obedience. This was what the Israelites experienced.

After the Israelites' rebellion, when God pronounced judgment on them, He first declared how patience He had been with His people. He then threatened to do away with them completely. But Moses interceded on behalf of the people, appealing to the glory and promises of God.

Each day, we encounter people who have not trusted in Jesus for salvation. They, too, stand under the righteous judgment of a patient God (2 Pet. 3:9). God invites us to join Him on His mission of making His presence known. We do this by proclaiming the gospel, but also by praying earnestly for those who don't know Him, that they might repent of their sin, turn to Jesus, and experience life.

**Who will you pray for who doesn't know Jesus? How will you tell them about Jesus this week?**

# Numbers 14:26-45

There is a difference between grieving sin and grieving the consequences of sin. When we grieve the consequences of sin, we are distraught by being disciplined or because we missed out on something that we wanted. The focus is on us. But when we grieve sin itself, we are distraught because our fellowship with God has been disrupted because of our sin and that we are failing to glorify God as He deserves. The focus is on God.

The Israelites' willingness to go into the promised land without the presence of God, shows that they hadn't repented of their sin. They didn't want God's presence; they wanted God's presents. They wanted what God could give, not God Himself. They were fine with dwelling in the land without God, and the consequences for their actions were dire.

The worst place for us to be is in sin because it disrupts our fellowship with God. Having anything without God is far worse than having nothing with God. We need to remember this, let God drive it into our hearts, and be quick to grieve over our sin—not its consequences. When we do, we will experience the freedom of living in the presence of our mighty God who loves us beyond measure.

**How have you grieved over sin recently—have you focused on the sin itself or the consequences of sin?**

# Numbers 16:1-50

Once again, we encounter a rebellion against Moses. But we have to see Israel's repeated lack of trust in Moses for what it really was: lack of trust in God. This was their root problem. This was what had to be addressed over and over. Rebelling against Moses was merely the symptom. Rebelling against God was the disease needing to be cured.

Moses' task was not an easy one. It is difficult to lead in even the best of circumstances, when the leader is focused on God as are the people he or she leads. But it's even more difficult when a leader is tasked with guiding a sinful people, especially when they constantly rebel against his or her authority too.

While most of us may never be in charge of leading a massive group of hard-hearted people through the wilderness, we are all called to take the message of the gospel to a world that wants nothing to do with it. Our job is simple: live the gospel; preach the gospel. But because the gospel is offensive, people will despise us. Like Moses, we must remember it is not really us who they despise and reject, it is Christ. And so, like Moses again but even more so like Christ, we must show compassion to the people we have been called to love and serve as we pray that through our kindness and perseverance, they might be reached with the gospel we proclaim.

**How does praying for people change the way you see them?**