

# Daily Devotions



Day 1

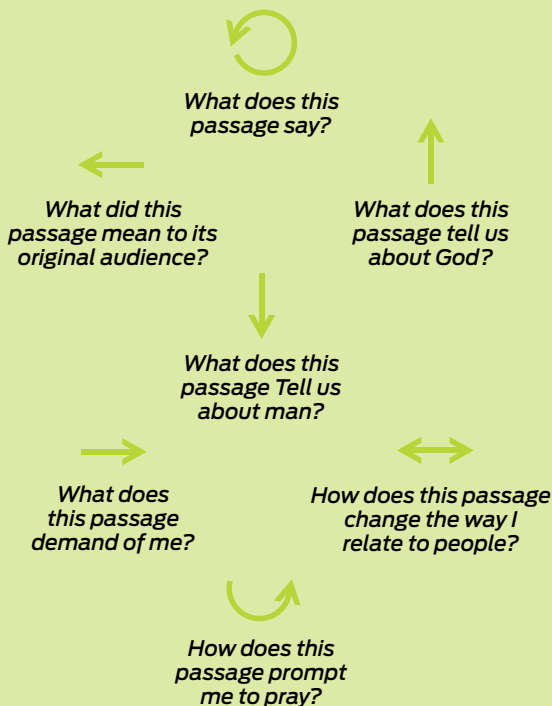
## Numbers 20:1-29

In Numbers 20 the people rose up against Moses and Aaron because they had no water to drink. In response, Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before God. God spoke to them and commanded Moses to speak to a rock and He would make it yield water. But because of his anger toward the people, Moses rebuked the Israelites, asked if he and Aaron had to provide water, and struck the rock twice instead. Because of Moses' failure to obey God, God declared that he would not be allowed to enter into the promised land; he would die in the wilderness instead.

God's demand for obedience is absolute. There is no such thing as "half-way" obedience. Even the most minuscule deviation from God's commands is an act of disobedience. We are called to be holy just as God is holy (1 Pet. 1:15-16). God's holiness refers both to His uniqueness in being separate from creation and His perfect purity. This is our standard as well. We are to be different from our culture. We are to obey perfectly. And even one act of unfaithfulness earns condemnation. But thankfully, we have been provided a way to be forgiven of our transgressions in Jesus, the One who perfectly obeyed and who takes our sin and credits us with His righteousness when we believe.

**How have you obeyed God partially at times believing that was good enough?**

## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



# Numbers 21:1-7a

At the beginning of Numbers 21, the Israelites revealed they had the ability to trust in God's faithfulness. But they also revealed they were quick to forget that same faithfulness. When the Canaanites fought against the Israelites and took some of their people captive, God gave His people victory. But then, when they bypassed Edom, the Israelites became impatient and quickly forgot what God had done for them. They began to complain about lacking food and water and detested what God had been providing. God responded to their sin by sending snakes into their camp to discipline them.

We are no different than the Israelites. We can think back over our lives and lose count of the victories God has given us. But we are so prone to forget all the good that God has done for us, often because of trivial needs or minor inconveniences in life. We too are quick to forget God's faithfulness and we too need God's gift of discipline at times to remind us that if God was willing to provide Jesus to die on the cross to address our greatest need, we can surely trust Him to provide for our daily needs as well (Luke 12:24).

**What are some things that God has done for you in the past that you can remember today to help you remain faithful in the face of need or temptation?**

# Numbers 21:7b-8

God provided Israel with an intermediary, Moses, who interceded on their behalf when they repented of their sin. It was through Moses' appeal that God provided a way for the people to recover from the consequence of their sin. The people wanted God to take away the serpents from the camp, but God had a better plan. He wanted them to experience what it was like to be doomed to die, but to be saved by placing faith in Him, and in doing so, experience new life from that day forward.

In a similar way, God has provided a way for us to be saved from our sin by lifting Jesus up on the cross. Our sin deserves God's wrath, but instead, He placed that wrath on His Son in our place. For anyone to be saved, all it takes is turning away from sin and looking to Jesus in faith, believing and trusting that He has done what is required to remove God's wrath from us. But for many, that is easier said than done. And for many who have trusted in Jesus, it remains difficult to continue to trust in the completed work of Jesus. That is why we are grateful that Jesus is an ever-present intercessor, always at the right hand of the Father making appeals to Him on our behalf.

**Who has God placed in your life for you to be an intercessor, praying for them and telling them what Christ has done?**

# Numbers 21:9-35

When we walk in obedience to God's commands, He both walks with us and before us. Jesus has already given us victory over sin and death so as we live, we are free to follow God no matter what may come our way. We are not promised lives of comfort and free of pain. In fact, being followers of Jesus in a broken world means that we will, not that we might, face persecution (Mark 10:30). But just as God told Moses that He had already given King Og into his hands, God has already won the victory over His enemies.

As we live each day, we go forward in confidence living from the victory that Jesus has already won for us. Jesus has defeated sin and death, so in the face of any persecution we will face, we continue striving to live the way He has called us to—with faith and with joy.

**How does knowing that God goes before you and with you give you confidence as you face opposition?**

# John 3:1-21

The necessity of belief for salvation is repeated several times in John 3. For anyone to be saved from sin, belief—or trust, or faith—in who Jesus is and that He has done everything necessary for salvation from sin is required. If we place our faith in Jesus Christ, He will give us eternal life. But that is not where it ends.

Trusting in the finished work of Christ also means living from the victory that He won on the cross. After we've placed our faith in Jesus, our salvation can never be taken away from us (Rom. 8:38-39). Neither persecution, death, nor even our own sin can separate us from the love of God. We can trust this to be true, even in the face of doubt, because even though it is our faith in Jesus that saves us, it is not our faith in Jesus that sustains our salvation. What sustains our salvation is the completed work of Jesus—His life, death, burial, and resurrection—and the unending power of God to preserve our salvation no matter what.

**What kind of doubts do you face in your walk with Christ, and how does His completed work on the cross help you continue to believe?**