

# IN THE WILDERNESS

## THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

### Week 2: Holiness & Rest

#### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four crucial components for a group to maintain its health: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out. In this guide, you will study the biblical passage in three steps: observation, interpretation, and application. As the group leader, you are free to use any part of this guide that can assist you in achieving this goal.

#### CONNECT

- What's a memorable road trip you've taken? What made it memorable?
- If you're following the Numbers reading plan, what's something interesting or confusing from last week's reading?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word holiness?

#### INTRODUCTION

Chapters 5-10 of Numbers happen just before Israel departs from Mt. Sanai towards the promised land. At first glance, the chapters feel like a strange collection of things, but they make a vital connection—that the rest and peace God has for his people is linked to the holiness he requires of them.

#### OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

**Read:** Numbers 5:1-10

**Discuss:** The camp was to remain clean by sending those who were unclean out of the camp, as well as by people setting things right when they sinned. If the camp was to reflect Eden, un-Eden-like things couldn't hang out there. How do these requirements impact the way you think about holiness and sin?

**Read:** Numbers 6:22-27, 10:33-36

**Discuss:** God's intention was to give Israel peace, blessing, grace, and rest as they journeyed through the wilderness. To our modern ears, that intention seems like a strange thing to combine with the requirement of holiness. What, rather than holiness, are you often told makes for peace and rest?

**Read:** Numbers 9:1-5

**Highlight:** The last thing God told Israel to do before departing from Mt. Sanai was to celebrate the Passover. They could trust that rest, peace, and blessing was his intention by remembering what he'd done for them in Egypt. We have something greater than the Passover. There is no greater assurance of God's promised rest and blessing than his gift to us in Christ.

#### APPLICATION

- Describe how God's gift of Jesus can assure you of his promised rest.
- Is there anything unholy that you need to "get out of the camp"?
- What does it look like right now in your life to cultivate a place for his presence?

#### PRAYER

Spend time thanking God for the gift of Jesus. Spend time remembering God's promise of blessing, peace, and rest.