

XXXIX

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX: Numbers

Main Idea

Have you ever felt like you're wandering—unsure of where you're headed or why God has led you down a difficult path? Maybe you've questioned whether you took a wrong turn or wondered if God is still with you in the midst of uncertainty.

The book of Numbers speaks directly to these moments. After being freed from slavery in Egypt, the Israelites found themselves in the wilderness, caught between God's promises and the reality of a long, difficult journey. But Numbers isn't just a record of their struggles—it's a reminder that God is present in the wilderness. Through cloud and fire, provision and discipline, He led His people every step of the way.

Like the Israelites, we will all face seasons of waiting, testing, and refining. But in those moments, we can trust that God is working, guiding, and providing for us—one day at a time.

For forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet become swollen.
NEHEMIAH 9:21

Make It Practical

The Wilderness is a Test of Trust – God led Israel through the wilderness to shape their faith, but doubt and grumbling held them back. Stay on His path, even when it's uncertain. (Numbers 14:1-3)

Jesus is Seen in Numbers – From the rock that was struck to the cloud and fire, Numbers points to Jesus as our guide and intercessor. (Numbers 9:15-23, 1 Corinthians 10:4, Hebrews 7:25)

God's Presence Leads Us – The Israelites failed when they moved without God. True success comes from following His direction. (Numbers 14:41-42)

The Wilderness Has Purpose – Sometimes it's for protection, preparation, or discipline. No matter the reason, God is working in it. (Numbers 14:20-25)

God Provides in Every Season – He sustained Israel for 40 years, and He still provides for us today—one day at a time. (Nehemiah 9:19-21)

Faith Brings the Promise – Caleb's faith led him forward, while others' doubt held them back. Trust God, even when the journey is long. (Numbers 14:24)

Talk About It

- Navigating the Wilderness – The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness, and Pastor Curt mentioned that the wilderness can serve different purposes (protection, preparation for a miracle, consequences of disobedience, or being caught in a backdraft). Have you ever experienced a “wilderness season” in your life? Looking back, what do you think God was doing in that time?
- Trusting God’s Guidance – Numbers 14:41-42 warns against moving forward without God’s presence. Pastor Curt emphasized that one of the greatest dangers in the wilderness is thinking we know more than God. How can we guard ourselves from making decisions based on our own understanding rather than waiting on God’s direction?
- God’s Provision in Hard Seasons – Nehemiah 9:19-21 highlights how God provided for Israel even in their disobedience—guiding them, feeding them, and sustaining them. In what ways have you seen God provide for you in difficult seasons? How can remembering past provision strengthen our faith when facing current struggles?

Judge God’s goodness by the cross, not by today’s trial.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for guiding us through every season of life, even the wilderness. Help us to trust in Your provision, Your timing, and Your wisdom, even when the path ahead seems uncertain. Strengthen our faith to follow You wholeheartedly, and remind us that You are always with us, leading us with grace. May we learn from the Israelites’ journey and walk in obedience, trusting that Your plans are good. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Next Steps

Identify Your Wilderness Season – Reflect on any current struggles or uncertainties. Ask God what He might be teaching you in this season.

Trust God’s Daily Provision – Instead of worrying about the future, commit to trusting God for today. Spend time in prayer and Scripture to remind yourself of His faithfulness.

(Matthew 6:11 – “Give us today our daily bread.”)

Stay on the Right Path – If you’re tempted to take shortcuts or rely on your own understanding, pause and seek God’s guidance. Don’t move ahead without Him. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Encourage Someone Else – The Israelites often grumbled and lost heart. This week, find someone who is struggling and remind them that God is with them in their wilderness.

Commit to Obedience – Like Caleb, choose faith over fear. Take a step of obedience toward what God has promised, even if it seems uncertain. (Numbers 14:24)