CHAPTER 6
Wandering
Numbers & Deuteronomy

THE STORY

Introduction
Israel’s wandering in the wilderness was like a road trip.
• God was their guide.
• Moses was the driver.
• In the back seat were 2 million kids.
• Their destination was the Promised Land.

THE STORY

I. Israel complained to Moses.
Numbers 11-12

THE STORY

Israel complained about the hardships of the trip.
Numbers 11:1-3
• Are we there yet?

Israel complained about the food.
Numbers 11:4-9
• Manna – What is it? Exodus 16:15
• We were better off in Egypt.
• We want meat to eat!

THE STORY

“What remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” Deuteronomy 8:2-3

God gave them their daily bread.

THE STORY

What was God doing?
God was testing them to know what was in their heart.
Paul says that we should learn from this example:

• To trust God to give us our daily bread.
• To share with God’s people who are in need. 1 Corinthians 8:13-15

Israel complained about God’s leadership. Numbers 12:1-2

• Who made Moses the leader?
• God answered their complaint in verses 6-8.

God is concerned about leadership in the church too.

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17

II. Israel took a dangerous wrong turn at Kadesh Barnea. Numbers 13-14

Twelve spies were sent into Canaan to explore the land.

• Ten said, we shouldn’t go. There are giants in the land. We should go back to Egypt.
• Two said, we should go, because God is with us and he will give us this land.

The people rebelled and grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

God said not one of this generation that grumbled against him would enter the Promised Land – but their children would. Numbers 14:20-24

What should have been a two week trip to the Promised Land became a 40 year journey.
Who will we listen to? Who will we obey?

III. Moses’ farewell speech is a call to trust the Lord.
Deuteronomy 29-34

Before the people of Israel, Moses also failed to trust God. Numbers 20
As a result of his disobedience, Moses was not allowed to lead the people into the Promised Land. Deuteronomy 34
Moses’ years of obedience did not give him a license to disobey God, even once.
Moses calls Israel to choose life!
Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Conclusion
What do we learn from this chapter of the story?
• We are on a journey (a road trip) from this life to heaven. There will be trials and hardships along the way.
• Our ability to live faithfully before the Lord is tied to our constantly remembering God’s Word.
Deuteronomy 8:2-3

• These stories were written for our benefit.
  “Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.” “We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.
1 Corinthians 10:6-10

• The Lord is looking for followers who will persistently honor and trust him.
• No whining allowed.
  “Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.” Philippians 2:14-16a