

Families On Mission Week 5 Devotional Guide

Day 29- Leviticus 26

Did God have the right to expect obedience from His people? Does He still? Those are two really important questions to wrestle through, because your perspective on those questions will shape a lot of how you believe and walk in your faith., for if you view this chapter merely as God will bless obedience and difficulties will befall those who disobey, you miss the point.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *God's ways are always best. He has given us a way to walk that naturally leads to blessings in many ways-- protecting our heart, body, and soul in many practical ways. What are some areas you can think of where obedience naturally leads to blessings or keeps you from harm? (Ie: Obeying "Don't touch the stove" leads to the blessing of not burning your finger.)*
- *Assuming God is holy, and He wants us to be holy, how does that factor into this chapter?*
- *God had given very specific instructions throughout the book of Leviticus. Therefore there would be very practical ramifications for obedience or lack thereof. So, how does that look in your family?*

When I was young, my parents asked me and my sister to get in the car to go for a ride with them. I didn't want to. I pitched a fit, because my agenda for the day was not in line with what my parents wanted me to do. My parents allowed us to have our own way, and we happily stayed home. That was until devotions time that night. Much to our horror, Kristin and I discovered that our lack of trust in our parents and our lack of desire to follow their lead for our afternoon cost us something that we really wanted, for their plan for the day included a trip



out to pick up a piano they had found to purchase for us. It was a long time after that before we finally got our prized piano, and I learned a really valuable lesson that has stuck with me since. When your parents want to do something, it's in your best interests to join them. :) That's actually a pretty good illustration of trust and obedience; how obedience can lead to blessings that you wouldn't imagine; how disobedience can lead to great regret and missing the blessings that are awaiting you, etc.

Day 30-- Numbers 3

The book of Numbers largely recounts the wanderings of the children of Israel in the wilderness after they disobeyed by not going into the promised land due to fear. In fact, the Hebrew title for this book actually means, "In the wilderness," and that is exactly where this book takes place.

But, Numbers also records some census information, numbers of different groups of people, as well as give us some insight into the order and preparation that went into leaving the brink of the Promised Land and embarking on their forty-year wandering punishment for their unbelief and disobedience.

It is that order and preparation that we will take a look at for the next few days as we get a glimpse of what happened during their wanderings.

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Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *The tribe of Levi was the smallest tribe, yet God gave them a very special charge- to serve in His tabernacle. As we see in Number 3:12, God set aside the Levites for His service instead of laying claim on all the first born as had been the custom. (v13) Yet, let's not forget that ultimately God gave His only Son (John 3:16) to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10.)*

Day 31-- Numbers 4

Chapter 4 gives us insight into the specific roles for 3 families- the sons of Kohath, the sons of Gershon, and the sons of Merari. We see in painstaking detail what they were tasked to do to facilitate the service of God- and there is a lot we can talk about here.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *As you read or listen to the assigned tasks, pay close attention to how many steps are clearly laid out for them to follow. Why Do you think God was so concerned with the way things were done in and around His tabernacle? (We learned one reason throughout Leviticus!)*
- *Are the duties of the Kohathites, the Gershonites, or the Merarites exciting? Were they worth bragging about? Nope. God spent a lot of time explaining completely mundane, behind-the-scenes, never really talked about tasks that were critically important to allow worship of a Holy God to go on. What can we all learn from that?*

As I read through these instructions, my heart swelled with gratitude once again that Jesus did

away with all the rituals and sacrifices when He came down from Heaven to make a way for us to have access to the Father without all those steps. That, by itself, is a very exciting conversation to have with your children!

Day 32-- Numbers 6

A Nazarite was a separated one. He or she would take a vow to separate themselves from the things of this world for a defined period of time or for a lifetime.

The chapter concludes with Aaron's blessing, which was the benediction God chose for dismissal of the people at the end of each service.

This beautiful statement came directly from God Himself, so the conclusion of this chapter is especially powerful.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions and ideas:

- *Look closely at the benediction and pay close attention to how the name of the Lord as used:*
 - *The Lord bless you and keep you*
 - *The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you*
 - *The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.*
- *There are three specific things for the Lord to do. Does that remind you of any other "three" you know about the Lord? God is three in one— God the Father, our Creator and Sustainer, Who will bless you and keep you; God the Son, Jesus, our Redeemer, Who will make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, and God the Holy*

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Spirit, the Comforter, Who will lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

- *Why do you think it was so important to keep God's name at the forefront of their minds as they were being dismissed from worship? Do you think that would have changed their behavior as they left? How can we keep God's name and His ways ever before us even today?*
- *After reading about the Nazirites today, it would be helpful to stop and think about what you would be willing to give up to devote yourself more to the worship of God. This could afford you some great conversations in the days ahead as your children's hearts are shown in the way they want to spend their time (or in your own meditation as God illuminates your heart in this matter as well.)*

Day 33-- Numbers 11

There are three big things to look at in this chapter and a whole bunch of rich conversation topics, so I will just tie them all together.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions and ideas:

- *The people were complaining (v4.) Was life really better in Egypt? Was God meeting their needs and answering their prayers? Should they have been thankful for and content with the manna God was sending their way? Of course they should have! It's really easy for us from our vantage point to get really irritated with the Israelites for all that murmuring and complaining, but how about today? Do you find yourself doing the same thing? How so? What are some areas that you are prone to complain*

about? This provides a great jumping off point with your children any time they complain, for you can draw attention to what the Children of Israel had yet they still complained— and what YOUR children have, yet they complain. This also provides a great platform for confession if God is showing you a discontent, complaining spirit within you. Parents who humbly tell their children how God is working in their own lives have great, authentic platforms for shepherding the hearts of their children.

- *In v 23, God asked them, "Is the Lord's hand shortened?" Was God able to provide meat for that many people? Was Moses? Of course God was, but if you have ever been surrounded by a swarming mob of complaining people, you'll probably have no problem putting yourself in Moses' place. We see in the verses leading up to this that he is at his wit's end with these people, and he knows full well that there is nothing he can do to provide enough meat for them all. Moses had to learn to trust God. God was able.*
 - *Have you ever found yourself facing a situation you were completely unable to overcome? Can God?*
 - *Does this account bring to mind any others where people were unable to provide for the needs of many, but God could?? (Check out Luke 9:10-17 to see once again how God's hand is not shortened, and how He provides even when we can't see any possible way.)*
- *Look at v 29. There were some others who were prophesying, and Joshua was*

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getting pretty protective of Moses' position. I love Moses' response. "Are you jealous for my sake?" Have you ever thought about how much could be accomplished if we didn't care who got the credit for it? When it comes to serving the Lord, shouldn't we all be on the same team, pushing towards the same goal, trying to point people to Jesus? The Apostle Paul had a similar reaction in I Corinthians 3 when he talks about others who are serving God as well, and he cautions everyone not to "pick sides" but rather to see that God's Work is what matters to personalities.

- *We must be very careful to put too much stock in personalities or heroes. Man will always fail, but God will not. Far too often, our children are disenchanted with things of the Lord because someone disappoints them— pastor, youth pastor, parent... this lays a good foundation for teaching them to look first and foremost to God, for He will never fail or disappoint.*
- *We also need to "check our pride at the door." Leaders who are more concerned about building their own "kingdom" rather than building the Kingdom of God are dangerous. Pride always leads to destruction, and Moses provides a great case study in humility here. (A topical study on pride may be a good study to do one on one with any of your children who struggle with that.)*

Day 34--Numbers 12

In chapter 11, under God's direction, Moses appointed elders to help govern and manage the massive group of people he was leading. Perhaps jealousy over not being part of the group- or even part of the decision to set up that group- was the catalyst that led Aaron and Miriam to openly confront Moses.

No matter what was the underlying reason, Aaron and Miriam acted out of anger and frustration and were very free in their criticism of Moses. It seems likely that Miriam was the instigator, for she was the one who was punished.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions and ideas:

- *What harm could have come by allowing Moses' two closest confidants to stir up unrest in the camp?*
- *Did Aaron and Miriam know all that was going on? No. How often are we quick to judge, give our strong opinions or jump on a bandwagon when we don't fully understand the situation? What would have been a better way for Aaron and Miriam to approach Moses?*
- *In the days ahead, be on the lookout for opportunities to coach your children through conflict resolution, through their reactions to things they don't fully understand, etc. But, in order to lead your kiddos, though, we as parents need to also be working on these things in our own lives. Ask the Lord to point out ways you are quick to judge or speak. The book of James has a lot of practical advice for us all when it comes to our speech and so much more!*

Day 35--Number 13- 10 were bad, 2 were good.

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As you start your reading today, note v -2. The Lord Jehovah specifically says to “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan which I am giving to the people of Israel...” There is no guesswork there. God was in this endeavor, so it could not fail.

How often when things look too hard, too far, and too out of reach, we need to remind ourselves of Who sent us there in the first place? When we can see no way through, God will always get the glory!

About 40 years later, when the children of Israel were once again standing on the banks of the Promised Land, Joshua encouraged them to “Be strong and courageous.” (Joshua 1) Oh, how things would have been different if they had done that the first time!

As God’s people today, we need to boldly and courageously be about the mission God has given us. We should not cower or be afraid, but we should boldly and confidently follow God wherever He leads.

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *What are some “giants” you see that may keep you from following Jesus day by day? By looking at those in your own life and praying for insight into them in the lives of your children, God will show you sins that can easily beset you and hold you back. Are you willing to repent and turn from those, leaving them and their power over you at the foot of the cross? You’ll be amazed at the doors God will open if you are looking for them and willing to boldly walk through them!*

The ending of our week actually reminded me of 2 resources that I would love for you to take advantage of. The first is a prayer series that I wrote based on how I have prayed for my own children through the years. You may have already signed up for it, but if not, I urge you to do so now. By praying scripture for your children each day, you’ll be amazed at how God directs your thoughts and your conversations to help you and your children grow more like Him. [Click here to access that free resource now.](#)

The other resource I would like to invite you to join is Teach Them Diligently 365. That members-only community is full of others who are as intent on following God’s plan for their family as you are. Teaching our children diligently takes constant effort and growth, so our heart in TTD365 is to walk alongside of you and help you on your way. It’s always easier to do hard things together! Join us there today to access not only that great community, but also thousands of audio and video resources that are available any time you need them to give you a little extra instruction or encouragement for whatever you’re facing. [Click here to learn more and join us there today.](#)