

<p>March 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 5</p>	<p>* The duties of the Levites show how carefully Israel was required to care for the holy things of the Tabernacle. As we saw in Exodus and Leviticus, God took the sanctity of holy things very seriously.</p> <p>* Numbers 5 is about restitution in cases where someone has wronged another person. The purpose of restitution was to restore the relationship with the person who had been wronged. Even the “test for adultery” (Num 5:11-31) was intended to restore trust if a woman was falsely accused of adultery.</p> <p>? In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reaffirmed the importance of restoring broken relationships (Matt 5:23-24). Do you have broken relationships that should be restored? What can you do to make restitution and restore trust?</p>
<p>March 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 7</p>	<p>* Numbers 7 is another chapter that may seem interminable. It lists the offerings from each tribe. You will notice that the same list of gifts is repeated throughout the entire chapter. As you read it, recognize two things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The gifts were voluntary. They were given from love, not compulsion. 2) The gifts were equal. Each tribe gave the same amount. There was no rivalry in the giving. <p>? Aaron’s blessing on the people of Israel (Num 6:22-27) was intended to “put God’s name upon the people of Israel.” God’s “name” represents His authority over His people, His glory among His people, and His character of holiness. Today, we are called to “do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17). Are you living “in His name”? Do you live under His authority? Do you live to bring glory to Him? Does your character reflect His holy character? This is what it means to live “in His name.”</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 10

<p>March 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 11</p>	<p>* Even in the desert, God commanded the people of Israel to observe Passover. A main purpose of Passover was to remember what God had done for His people. Even though Israel was suffering the consequences of her disobedience, God wanted the people to remember how He delivered them from Egypt. When we forget what God has done, we are quicker to disobey. Passover was a way to draw the people back to God.</p> <p>? The tribe of Levites belonged to God; they were “wholly given” to God as priests (Num 8:14,16). In the New Testament, Christians are now God’s “royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9). Are you “wholly given to God” as the Levites were? Do you belong completely to Him?</p> <p>? When Israel began to be hungry for the foods of Egypt, they complained, “The food we ate in Egypt cost nothing!” They forgot that they earned that food through their work as slaves. Many times, Christians can forget the cost of their past sin. Satan tempts us with the “good memories” and causes us to forget our slavery to sin. Do you still hunger for the sins of your past? If so, remember the cost of those sins and thank God for your freedom from slavery to sin.</p>
<p>March 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 14</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 15</p>	<p>* At first glance, Numbers 15 seems out of place. It follows God’s judgment in which He condemns the entire adult generation of Israel to die in the desert. This generation will never enter the Promised Land. Immediately after this, Numbers 15 begins, “When you come into the land....” Why? Because even in judgment, God renewed His promise that Israel would someday inherit the land of Canaan. The laws of Numbers 15 show that God has not forgotten His promises to Israel.</p> <p>? Moses was “very meek” (Num 12:3). His meekness and humility is seen in his prayer for his sister, Miriam. After she rejected his leadership, Moses prayed that God would heal her (12:13). Do you pray for those who wrong you? Do you love those who despise you?</p> <p>? Joshua and Caleb looked at the Canaanites through eyes of faith (14:9). The other spies looked at the Canaanites through eyes of fear (13:33). Do you see the challenges of life through eyes of fear or through eyes of faith?</p>
<p>March 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 16</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 17</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 18</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 19</p>	<p>* Because of their sin, Israel faced forty years wandering in the desert. God knew they would be prone to rebellion against Moses and Aaron, their appointed leaders. Because of this, God judged the rebellion of Korah with immediate and drastic punishment. God knew that Israel must accept Moses’ leadership or they would not survive as a nation to go into Canaan.</p> <p>? The people of Israel were quick to reject God-ordained authority. Do you willingly submit yourself to the spiritual authorities that God has placed in your life?</p>
<p>March 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 21</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 22</p>	<p>* Why did God judge so severely Moses’ disobedience in striking the rock for water? I believe the answer is 20:12. Moses acted out of disbelief and did not “uphold God” in the eyes of the people. Moses took the glory that belongs to God alone. In our service to God, we must never take His glory.</p> <p>? The story of Balaam is the sad story of a man who obeyed God <i>only</i> after struggle. Do you obey God willingly or do you press against the limits He puts in your life?</p>

<p>March 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 23</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 24</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 26</p>	<p>* Although God did not allow Balaam to curse Israel, Balaam failed to be fully faithful to God. His story is one more example of the consequences of disobedience in Numbers. In the New Testament, 1 Peter 2:15 condemns Balaam for seeking “gain from wrongdoing” and Revelation 2:14 says that Balaam is the one who gave Balak the plan to entice Israel into Baal worship (25:1-3).</p> <p>? Repeatedly, Israel was drawn to other gods. Today, we rarely are drawn to worshipping idols. But what are the “gods” that entice you away from the true God? Do you allow a love for education, money, career advancement, pleasure, or prestige to draw you away from God? What is your “false god?”</p>
<p>March 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 27</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 28</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 29</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 30</p>	<p>* In these chapters, Israel prepares to enter Canaan. God gives laws that govern inheritances in Canaan, He appoints Joshua as Moses’ successor, and He gives laws about sacrificial offerings and vows. God is preparing the new generation to enter the Promised Land forty years after the first generation failed because of unbelief.</p> <p>? The Old Testament laws show God’s love and mercy on Israel. <i>Because</i> Israel belongs to God, He gives laws to govern their lifestyle. God’s law shows God’s love. How has God shown His love to you through His law and guidance in your life? Can you see that God’s law shows His love for you?</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 11

<p>March 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 31</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 32</p>	<p>* God promised the land of Canaan to Israel. However, when it was time to enter the Promised Land, the tribes of Reuben and Gad wanted to remain on the east side of the Jordan rather than entering Canaan. Later, Reuben will fail to support the other tribes in battle (Judges 5:16). In this early scenario, the tribes of Reuben and Gad show their lack of commitment to the nation of Israel.</p> <p>? Unlike the other people of Israel, Joshua and Caleb “wholly followed the Lord” (32:11-12). Do you have the half-hearted faith of the people of Israel or the whole-hearted faith of Joshua and Caleb?</p>
<p>March 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 33</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 34</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 36</p>	<p>* When you read the book of Joshua, you may be tempted to ask, “Why did God command Israel to destroy the Canaanites?” Part of the answer is found in Numbers 33:55-56. When Israel failed to drive out the Canaanites, the remaining people because “thorns” who led Israel into idol worship. Tolerating the idol worship of the Canaanites soon drew Israel away from God.</p> <p>? What are you tolerating in your life that can draw you away from God? Are there habits that weaken your commitment to God?</p>
<p>March 14</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deuteronomy 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 3</p>	<p>* The book of Deuteronomy contains three speeches that Moses gave as Israel was preparing to cross the Jordan into Canaan. The first speech (Deut 1-4) reviews Israel’s history in the wilderness. Moses reminds Israel of the cost of disobedience (Deut 1) and of God’s protection in the wilderness (Deut 2-3).</p> <p>? Stop and reflect on Deut 1:2-3. It is “eleven days’ journey” from Horeb (Mt. Sinai) to Kadesh-Barnea where Israel prepared to enter Canaan. However, it took Israel forty years to complete this eleven day journey. Why? Because they did not believe God (1:32). What promises of God are you missing because you do not believe Him?</p> <p>? As you read Deuteronomy 1-3, review your walk with God. Think about the cost of disobedience in your life. Praise God as you remember His past protection.</p>
<p>March 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 6</p>	<p>* In Deuteronomy 5-26, Moses gives God’s law for Israel. Much of this is a repeat of the law from Exodus. In fact, the word “Deuteronomy” means “Second Law.” Moses repeats the principles of the law and then shows how these principles will be applied in a new situation in Canaan.</p> <p>? As you read 4:6-8, ask, “How is my life a testimony to unbelievers who see me?”</p> <p>? Deuteronomy 6:4-5 shows that we should obey God’s law because we love Him. Do you obey God out of love?</p> <p>? Deuteronomy 6:6-8 taught Israel to constantly remind themselves and their children of God’s law. How do you remember God’s Word and teach it to your children? Do you actively teach God’s Word to your children?</p>

Week 12

<p>March 19</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deuteronomy 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 16</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 17</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 18</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 19</p>	<p>* These chapters continue the practical application of the law. God gave instructions about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Caring for the poor 2) Important religious festivals 3) Sacrifices 4) Legal decisions 5) Principles for Israel's king 6) Providing for the priests 7) Prophets 8) Protection of human life <p>? The sabbatical year was a time to cancel debts and return property to the original owner. This was a practical way for each person in Israel to love his or her neighbor. How do you show love to your neighbor? How do you love those who are less privileged than you are?</p> <p>? The festivals in Deuteronomy 16 reminded Israelites of God's goodness. Do you use Christian celebrations such as Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost to remember God's goodness?</p> <p>* In Deuteronomy 18, Moses gave instructions for caring for the priests and Levites. Paul taught that the same principles should apply to the New Testament church (1 Timothy 5:17-18). God blesses churches that provide for their leaders.</p>
<p>March 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 21</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 22</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 23</p>	<p>* These chapters continue to apply the principles of the law to life in a new situation. After wandering in the desert, Israel would now live a settled life in Canaan. Moses showed Israel how the principles of the law would apply in this new setting. The principles of God's law apply in many situations. This gives us a model for applying God's law in our life.</p> <p>? These laws show that nothing is too small for God. We are His children and He cares about every detail of our life. Do you trust God with every aspect of your life?</p>
<p>March 21</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 24</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 25</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 26</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 27</p>	<p>* In Deuteronomy 27, Moses commands Israel to perform a ceremony after they cross into Canaan. This ceremony will repeat the blessings and curses of the covenant. The purpose is to remind Israel of their obligation to be faithful to God's law. Living as the people of God requires obedience to the law of God.</p> <p>? As you read the provisions of the covenant, ask, "Am I living in obedience to God's law?" In the Old Testament, the blessings of the covenant came as temporal, physical blessings. In the New Testament, the blessings are spiritual. The principles remain the same: God blesses those who are faithful to His law.</p>
<p>March 22</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 28</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 29</p>	<p>* Moses' speech in Deuteronomy 27-33 looks to Israel's future. Moses warns them once more of the danger of turning to other gods. Because God loved Israel, He was faithful to warn them of the danger of apostasy.</p> <p>? God must judge with justice – even against His own people (Deut 29:24-28). Do you take God's justice and judgment seriously? Do you understand that God's love does not ignore His justice?</p>

<p>March 23</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 31</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 32</p>	<p>* Moses commanded Israel to read the law publicly so everyone would hear. He taught them a song to help them remember the covenant (Deut 32).</p> <p>? As you read Deuteronomy 30, ask, “By my obedience or disobedience, am I choosing life or death?” (Deut 30:11-20)</p> <p>? Reading the law and singing about covenant was a way to remind Israel of God’s commands. Today we do this by reading Scripture. Is Bible reading a part of your daily schedule? Someone said, “We put what is most important to us on our schedule.” Is reading God’s Word on your schedule?</p>
<p>March 24</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 33</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deut 34</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Job 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Job 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Job 3</p>	<p>? Read the great promise of Deuteronomy 33:26-27. Reflect on this promise in times of trouble. God is your dwelling place. He holds you in His everlasting arms!</p> <p>? When Moses died (at the age of 120), he left behind the legacy of a faithful life. What legacy will you leave to those who follow you? Are you living a life of faithful obedience to God?</p> <p>* Job 1-2 gives the background of this book. It shows how Satan received permission from God to attack Job. It shows Job’s initial trust in God. Then Job 3 shows his doubts as even his wife tells him to “Curse God and die” and as he suffers such physical and emotional torment.</p> <p>? Can you pray the prayer of Job 1:21? Do you trust God with what He allows in your life? (Remember, you don’t need the faith of Job! Just trust God for <i>your</i> situation.)</p> <p>? Although the friends failed to give good counsel, they did one thing good – they came to be with a suffering friend. Will you allow God to use you to be a comfort to a person who is hurting?</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 13

<p>March 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Job 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Much of this week’s reading feels repetitious. That is because the friends keep saying the same thing repeatedly, “Job, you have sinned.” And Job keeps responding, “I am innocent.” * The first of Job’s friends is Eliphaz. He claims to have received the truth through special revelation from God (4:12-16). Job responds to Eliphaz by saying, “I don’t need more advice. I need someone to listen to my hurts” (6:14). ? Have you ever experienced God’s discipline? (5:17) As God’s child, are you learning to trust His teaching and discipline without complaint? ? Job needed a listener (6:14). When someone is hurting, do you take time to listen? Or like Eliphaz, are you too quick to give advice without truly listening to a person who is hurting?
<p>March 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Job 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Bildad points to tradition to say, “Sinners always suffer. If you are suffering, it is because you have sinned against God” (8:8-10). ? In Job’s answer, he points to his loneliness and suffering. When you are suffering alone, will you trust God? Will you trust God in the darkest moments of life?
<p>March 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Job 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Zophar is the rudest friend. He tells Job, “You deserve even worse than you have received” (11:6). Job answers that his hope is in God (13:15). Even though Job doesn’t understand why he is suffering, he will trust God. ? After reading the friends’ first speeches, how have they failed Job? What would you say to give help to Job?
<p>March 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Job 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In the second group of speeches, the friends make even worse accusations against Job. They insist that he is suffering because he has sinned against God. However, remember Job 1:1. God says that Job is “blameless and upright.” ? In Job 19, he tells how his friends have turned against him, his own relatives ignore him, and his body is almost destroyed by sickness. But Job says, “I know that my redeemer lives. I will still maintain hope in Him.” (19:25-27) When you are suffering, will you trust God and wait for His timing?
<p>March 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Job 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 21 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 22 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 24 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? In Job 21 and 24, Job shows how the wicked people prosper. This makes the suffering of the righteous even worse! When you see the wicked prosper, will you trust God and wait for His timing?

<p>March 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Job 27 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 28 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 29 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 30 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 31 	<p>* This is Job’s last group of speeches. They are important for preparing for the final chapters. Take time to understand them.</p> <p>Job 28: Job asks, “Where is wisdom?” He shows that key to wisdom and understanding is the “fear of the Lord” (28:28). Although Job is still far from understanding what God is doing, he knows where to find the answer – in the fear of God. (In the Bible, the term “fear of God” means respect and relationship with God. It is a positive term, not a negative term.)</p> <p>Job 29-30: Job contrasts his joyful past with his present suffering.</p> <p>Job 31: Job insists that he is innocent of any willful sin against God. Read his declaration of innocence – and remember Job 1:1. God agrees, “Job is upright.” Job is not suffering because he has sinned against God. The friends are wrong.</p> <p>? Where do you seek wisdom? Have you learned to trust God in the “fear of God.”</p> <p>? As you read the testimony in Job 31, can you say the same? If not, will you ask God to give you power to live a life of victory over willful sin?</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>