

THE PLAN

10. The Wilderness (Numbers) November 14, 2021

Story Coordinates (Numbers 10:11-13, 13:1-18)

People (Who is the story about?)

Place (Where is their home?)

Presence (How can they meet with God?)

Purpose (What did God tell them to do?)

What did they do?

- The spies fixated on the _____ of all the _____ in their path. (13:21-31)
- The spies let anxiety _____ their memories and _____ from God's promises. (13:32-33; Exodus 23:27-30)
- The Israelites _____ in God and _____ against his plans. (14:1-4)

How did God respond?

- God _____ the Israelites for their rebellion. (14:10-20)
- God decided not to _____ that generation with the _____ of his plan. (14:21-25)
- God stayed faithful to his promise to _____ and _____ his people. (23:18-23)

The Moral of the Story

- God works _____ faithful people—and _____ faithless people.
- Being faithful means focusing on our _____ and leaving the _____ to God.
- Being faithful means choosing what you know _____ over what you _____ in the moment.

Spoiler Alert:

- We trust Jesus Christ because he loves us and gave himself for us. (Galatians 2:20)

Small Group Questions

1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- Have you ever had an experience like Israel's, where your anxiety made something seem much worse than it really was?

2. Into the Bible (1 Corinthians 10:1-13)

- Verses 1-5: Which stories is Paul referring to in this passage? What ultimately happened to the people who lived through those stories?
- Verses 6-10: What kinds of failures did the Israelites commit that led them to fail in the Wilderness? (Bonus: which stories is Paul referring to here?)
- In both passages Paul refers to Jesus as being part of the Wilderness stories. What part did Jesus play? How was he present in the Wilderness?

- Verses 11-13: What are we supposed to learn from the Wilderness stories, according to Paul? How should our behavior be different?

3. Going Deeper

- What are some of the big picture issues that God has commanded Christians to take on? How do those big pictures intimidate us?
- God told the Israelites to focus on the next step instead of the big picture. What are the next steps for us in facing our big pictures? What small things can we do to take on those big issues?
- Where is God calling you specifically to take a next step? What can you commit to doing in your life to take on God's mission on Earth?

4. Prayer

- Pray for each other and the missions God has given you.