

God has done great things through His Westwood Church family over the past 60 years and we are grateful! The past decade has been a significant time of transition but God has always been faithful and leading us through it. As we remember what God has done in the past, we see Him calling us forward once more to follow Him into a chapter that is unknown yet holds much promise. We are excited about what God might yet do through His church as we surrender to His leadership in both our personal and collective lives! May He do more than we can ask or imagine!

WHAT LIES AHEAD

Numbers Overview:

Numbers is a continuation of God's story in building a nation who would represent him on the earth. Numbers is an historical record of God's continued rescue of his people and includes themes like:

God at work in Israel / Covenant Community / Land and rest / Promises of God / Commands of God for being a covenant people / Deliverance

Author and Date:

Unkown, but evidence suggest Moses wrote a significant portion (Numbers 33:2)
1440-1400 B.C.

First readers and their location:

Unkown, but evidence points to the Israelites before they crossed the Jordan and entered the land promised to them by God.

Open-up

What are some things in your life that have caused you to fear? How did your understanding of God shape, either negatively or positively, the fear you experienced?

 **Into the Bible—Ask “What does it Say?”**

Read: Numbers 13:1-33 or listen to it through the Bible App at bible.com

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points, what did this passage say to the original author and audience)

What command did God give to Moses? What instructions did Moses give to the 12?

What report did the 12 explorers bring back?

What is true and what is missing when you compare Caleb and Joshua's response to the other explorers? (See also 14:5-9)

How did God address the complaints of the Israelites?



Into my life—Ask “What does this look like in my personal life?”

Not long before this God had defeated the Egyptians when he delivered the Israelites at the Red Sea crossing. What do you think the Israelites have forgotten and what new fears might be creeping into them at the prospect of entering Canaan? What personal costs do you think they feared?

For the Israelites, entering Canaan was a step of obedience God was calling them to make. When has fear kept you from obeying God? How might you have exaggerated or misrepresented the issue (Like the explorers) in order to justify your decision?

Fear that keeps us from taking a step of obedience is really a mark of pride. Do you think this statement is true? Why or why not?

In the message this Sunday the statement was made, “What you believe about God affects whether you will step out in faith or shrink back in fear.” what next step do you need to take in understanding who God is?



Into the World—Ask “what does this look like in my world?”

What step of obedience might God be leading you to take in your world?