

Living in the Wilderness

Next Steps

Numbers 14:1-25

OPENING PRAYER:

Lord, your words are sweet to the taste, sweeter than honey; let them be my daily meditation and my study. Give me ears to hear. Teach me your ways, grant me patience and persistence, and equip me for every good work. Guide my feet, keep me from every false way, for you alone speak the words of life. Amen. (based on Psalm 119 and 2 Timothy 3-4)

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the sermon this week?
- What's the one thing right now that immediately pushes your buttons, causes you to grumble? Now what about that is so upsetting?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Numbers 14:1-25

- What strikes you most about this passage?
- What is your immediate reaction to the people? When is a time you overreacted or your emotions got the best of you? What did you learn from that experience?
- What does this scripture teach you about God and God's character? How does this impact your life?
- As you consider the reasons the people would like to turn back and their specific complaints, how do you perceive their fears?
 - What giants are you facing right now? How can this passage help you?
 - What fears are overwhelming you?

Read the major events as the story continues: Numbers 15:37-41; 20:1-13; 21:4-9; 22:21-41; 27:1-11(36:5-9); 28:16-25. Answer the following:

- What's going on and how does this impact the story?
- What do you need to learn that the Israelites are struggling with?
- How will this scripture change your life?

NEXT STEPS:

- Make a list of the fears in your life that may be holding you back. Take one each day and lay it before God for one minute, then read this passage and spend another 1 minute in prayer.
- In prayer, reflect upon the greatest wilderness of your life. What helped you survive and get through? In reflection, what would you have needed or wanted? What lessons does God want you to apply to the coming wilderness?
- What spiritual and life goals does God want you to set?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Come, O Holy Spirit, Come!
Come like Holy Fire and burn with us.
Come like Holy Wind and cleanse us.
Come like Holy Light and lead us.
Come like Holy Truth and teach us.
Come like Holy Love and enfold us.
Come like Holy Power and enable us.
Come as Abundant Life and Fill us,
Convert us,
Consecrate us,
Until we are wholly thine.
Come, Holy Spirit, Come!
--A Prayer of the Ancient Church