



# SMALL GROUP STUDY

## Failures and the Future

Murmuring and complaining can become a way of life if you practice it long enough. We find the children of Israel still in the wilderness still murmuring and complaining against God, Moses and Aaron. This is a fantastic read with many miracles both in dealing with sin and with bringing them into the land. God will eventually lead them into the land He has promised them, but He first deals with their sin.

### Failure in the wilderness (Numbers 15-19)

Korah, a man of the priesthood, a leader among the people stirs up dissension among the people against Moses and Aaron. God deals in a miraculous way with Korah and those in his camp.

#### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. How were Korah and his cohorts punished and why?
- b. What miracle did God provide in order to confirm Aaron to the priesthood?
- c. Examine your heart: Do you find yourself murmuring and complaining on a regular basis? Today determine in your heart to be thankful for what you have, and no longer complain about what you don't have. Write down 5 things that you can praise God for right now. Each day this week write down five additional things you can thank God for.

### Failure on the way to Moab (Numbers 20-21)

This is now the next generation, it's 37 years later and they are continuing the murmuring and complaining just as their parents did. Their latest complaint: there's no water to drink and they lament the fact that did not die with their brethren who were swallowed up into the earth!

#### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. What did Moses do in order to obtain water for the congregation?
- b. What is the consequence of Moses' and Aaron's rebellion at the water of Mirabah?
- c. Why did God send fiery serpents to bite the people? and, what did the people need to do in order to be healed from the serpent bites?

### Failure with Moabites (Numbers 22-25)

The children of Israel have now had several victories and the people in the land are terrified of them and their God. Balak, the king of Moab, hires Balaam to curse Israel. However, God has other plans and Balaam ends up blessing them rather than cursing.

#### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. What miraculous thing happens to Balaam and his donkey?
- b. What evil did the children of Israel commit with the people of Moab?
- c. What consequence did God provide for their sin?



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## **The Future (Numbers 26-36)**

A new census is taken of this next generation. The children are again instructed in the offerings, the law, and the conquering and dividing of the land. Although they entered the land, they did not fully inhabit their gift from God. They were given 300,000 square miles of land. At any point in history they have never inhabited more than one tenth of what was promised to them.

### ***Discussion Questions:***

- a. Which tribes settled East of the Jordan?
- b. What agreement was made in order for two and a half tribes to settle outside of the promised land?
- c. Examine your heart: Are you fully living your Christian life and the inheritance you have in Christ? or, Are you only claiming a small percentage? What will you do today to accept His entire gift?