

THE Story

WANDERING : PT.1 – SCOTT LANIGAN

February 13-14, 2021

DESERT LIFE DOES NOT SUIT ISRAEL

Israel must learn to trust God through their experiences in the desert.

THE TEXT

The Story, pages 71-78 (Numbers 11 – 20)

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What did you learn about Israel's wandering that you didn't know before?
2. Measuring your trust in God, where would the scale tip for you and why? Do you need to see it or do you have faith in what you can't see?
3. What step do you need to take this week to trust God, to hear from God and to learn His character? Who can help you in taking that step?

LOOK TO THE WORD

On the 20th day of the second month of the second year, the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle... They set out, this first time, at the Lord's command. (Numbers 10:11)

God had resided with His people and when the cloud lifted, God was on the move.

- Why is it important that God was living with the people?
- Why is it important that the people are moving at the Lord's command?

Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord and when He heard them his anger was aroused. (Numbers 11:1)

- What do the peoples' complaints reveal about the state of the human heart?
- For God to be slow to anger (Exodus 34:6,7), why is He so quick to anger here?



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Tell the people: Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. (Numbers 11:18)

- What does 'consecrate' mean? And why do the Israelites need to consecrate themselves?
- What do we learn about God and how He provides meat for the people?

The Lord said to Moses, "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites." (Numbers 13:2)

- Arriving at the Promised Land, what do the spies discover?

But the men who had gone up with Caleb said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." (Numbers 13:31)

- How do the 10 spies describe the Promised Land and its inhabitants?
- Read slowly and carefully:
"WE can't attack those people; they are stronger than WE are."
(emphasis added)

Where is the focus of the people? Where should it be?

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

- How has God proven His presence to Israel thus far in *The Story*?
- Why have the people forgotten His help?

LOOK INWARD

"Wandering is when you find yourself between where you started and where you want to be."

- Where do you want to be? Where are you right now?

"I have never had clarity. What I have always had is trust. So, I will pray that you trust God." — Mother Teresa

- Why do you think Mother Teresa points us to trust before clarity?
- What are you asking God for clarity about right now?



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He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. (Deut. 8:3)

- What feeds your heart, soul, mind and strength?
- How do the thoughts, words and actions we feed on affect our ability to follow God?

Reflecting on the experience of the people of Israel as they hear the reports of the spies:

- How have you experienced moments when you can only trust what you can see, not what you can't see?

Scott acknowledged, "The fog of our circumstances can become thick, scary...You thought your faith was strong, but there are so many things pulling at the weight of your faith right now." Politics. Opinions. Convenience. Belief. Your Losing Perspective.

- What barriers are in the way to you experiencing God in His fuller presence and power?

Purposeful Pause:

- What has God done in you lately? How do you know God is at work?
- Read Psalm 139 and ask God to show you His work in you.

LOOK OUTWARD

Complaining is contagious. Complaining leads to hopelessness. Hopelessness loses perspective.

- How are others hearing your words? Complaining? Critical? Hopeful? Encouraging? Empowering? Why do they hear your words this way?



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God dwelt among the people of Israel and provided all they needed for life in the desert.

- How can you live amongst others in a way that is life-giving? How do you learn about the needs of the people around you and how do work to meet their needs?

Like Joshua and Caleb who shared about the fruits of the Promised Land:

- How can you share with others about your trust in God?

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- Praise God for the renewing and redeeming work that He is doing in each one of us despite COVID
- Pray for Trinity Church's introduction to and journey through Lent
- Praise God for the answered prayers concerning surgeries that were taking place for Trinity congregation members over the past 10 days
- Pray for our Trinity Kids & Next Gen as they take steps to follow Jesus at home and at school
- Pray for the end of COVID-19 and the accompanying restrictions
- Pray for our community and government leaders as they prepare to care for our communities
- Pray for those participating in Alpha in this season, that God would meet them all in powerful ways

RESOURCES

If you are interested in journeying with a group of people through the Bible Project's "How To Read the Bible" series, send an email to jraine@trinitykelowna.ca

Podcast

As we journey together through *The Story*, make sure to catch the weekly podcast every Wednesday as we took a significant look at key issues in the text, questions you've submitting or topics we had to overlook because of time. Send questions to podcast@trinitykelowna.ca

