

THE Story

WANDERING : PT.2 – SCOTT LANIGAN

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GUSHING ROCKS AND A SNAKE ON A POLE

Before the people enter the Promised Land, there are two more occurrences of murmuring that (1) decide Moses' fate and (2) remind us of Jesus our Lord.

THE TEXT

The Story, pages 78-82 (Numbers 20-21)

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What is the most impactful memory in your life?
2. What do you learn about God's character from the first story; He provides water even though Moses doesn't follow the instructions?
3. In the midst of trials, why does your faith matter?

LOOK TO THE WORD

"Why did you bring the Lord's community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place?" (pg. 78 or Numbers 20:4,5)

- Why are the people complaining?
- Why would they believe they were led into the desert to die?
- Why is it significant that the people are blaming Moses and not God?

"Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them." (pg. 78 or Numbers 20:6)

- What do we learn about Moses and Aaron as they take the complaints straight to God?



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"Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff." (pg. 79 or Numbers 20:10)

- In this passage, what character traits do you see revealed in Moses?
- Why does Moses feel compelled to strike the rock instead of speaking to it?

"But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?... Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them..." (pg. 80 or Numbers 21:6)

- The 8th murmuring: the people complain against God and Moses. Why?
- Is the snake a significant theme in the Bible? Why?

"Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived." (pg. 80 or Numbers 21:9)

- Describe the snake on the pole and God's instructions regarding it.
- What does the bronze snake remind you of?

LOOK INWARD

Scott said (about being in the desert), "If you are not redeeming time – you are just putting in time."

- What does it look like to redeem your time?
- In contrast, what does "putting in time" look like?

After 40 years in the desert, the peoples' memory still gravitated towards what they thought they had experienced in Egypt, even though they had seen God sustain them for 4 decades in the desert!

- What are some of your most significant memories and how do they influence you today?
- Do you think you remember accurately? Or is hindsight 20/20? Or do you reflect with "rose-coloured glasses"?



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Part of the disappointment of the Promised Land was that the people did not see God fulfill His promises to them in the way that they wanted.

- When you think about God's promises to you, how do you want Him to fulfill them?
- Why do you believe God should fulfill His promises the way you want them to be fulfilled? What descriptions in the Bible encourage/discourage the way you want God to fulfill versus the way God will fulfill?

Moses' anger is a sign of a work that God is still doing in him. He was angry and killed the Egyptian. He was angry and he smashed the stone tablets. Now, he's angry and swinging at the rock. And yet, Moses has come a long way in his abilities as the leader.

- What moments in your life reveal your "old tendencies"?
- What moments in your life reveal the new work that God is doing in you?

When we complain about our circumstances, events in our life become poisonous and destructive (like the venomous snakes). Then God reminds us to fix our eyes on Him and we see Him and our hope for eternal life (see John 3:14-17).

- How are you being reminded to fix your eyes on God?

LOOK OUTWARD

Read John 3:9-17.

- Jesus came to redeem, to reconcile, to save. How can you experience this saving grace with other people right now?
- Who, in your sphere of influence, needs to be healed, saved or delivered from the death? (e.g. They have been bitten by the poisons of life and need to look to the Savior) How can you light up the dark and help them see Jesus?

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:1-4

- James expects the early church to go through trials together. Who can you journey alongside right now in your/their trials?



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NEVER STOP PRAYING

- Praise God for the chance to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth
- Praise God for the success of Metro Community's Coldest Night of the Year campaign on Saturday!
- Praise God for the ways the risen Jesus is revealing Himself to people and inviting them to follow Him
- Praise God for this season of baptisms we are celebrating in our weekend services
- Pray for those experiencing physical and mental health challenges and are receiving treatment at home, in hospital or in hospice care
- Pray for those participating in our Life Solutions course (Managing Your Emotions and Bridges to a Better Marriage)

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

Resource Page

Have you visited our Trinity Kelowna resource page lately? Find up-to-date links for the Lent 2021, the most recent daily devotional, the podcast and other recommended resources! Visit trinitykelowna.ca/resources

