



## The LORD is merciful and just

### Lesson Summary

Israel is finally on their way to the promised land - the land of Canaan (just a 3 day journey). Last week, In order to get Israel ready for their conquest of the land of Canaan, the LORD organized the nation into camps by tribes (the tribes are the 12 families descending from the 12 sons of Jacob) and gave specific roles to each tribe. The LORD's presence is among them and is guiding them through the wilderness to the special land. He will surely give His people victory over the people inhabiting their land. Yet, the people question the LORD's ability to protect them and provide for them and began grumbling in a similar manner to Exodus 17 after they had been delivered from Egypt. The people didn't believe the LORD had their best interest in mind and they also grew weary of the LORD's provision of manna and wished to return to Egypt where they had meat to eat. To cap it all off, after spying out the promised land and seeing that it was the good land that they LORD said it would be, the people did not trust the LORD to fight for them against the big bad people living in the land. So, instead of trusting the LORD to be their shield, they refused to go into the land out of the fear of men. The LORD desired to wipe the entire faithless nation out right there, but Moses interceded for the people; and the LORD, being merciful and loyal, forgave them...but not without leaving the guilty unpunished - this generation will not be able to enter the land.

### Story of the Bible Chart

We are still in the "looking for the Messiah" part of the chart. Today, we see a foreshadowing of the Messiah in Moses as He intercedes for God's people.

### Story of the Bible Chart picture of the day:



THIS WEEK

LAST WEEK



Preparing to Take the Land  
*Numbers 1-10*



Israel's failure to trust  
the LORD  
*Numbers 11-14*

NEXT WEEK



A New generation prepares  
to take the promised land  
*Numbers 20-36*



## LESSON INTRO

### LESSON HIGHLIGHTS

1. Moses continues to serve as mediator for a sinful nation.
2. The LORD is merciful and loyal, just as He said, but will not leave the guilty unpunished.
3. The LORD will discipline His people whom He loves, who are like a son to Him.

### REVIEW OF THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

In the book of Exodus, we watched as the LORD faithfully and powerfully provided for Israel in many ways and many forms.

- He powerfully delivered them from their enemies, Egypt, who bitterly enslaved them.
- He miraculously provided them with water and food in the wilderness.
- He mercifully provided them with priests, mediators, and teachers so that they would endure in their faith.
- He loyally provided them with His very presence, which would lead them and be their sword and shield against their enemies.

\*\*Do you think Israel should know by now that nothing is impossible with the LORD?\*

\*\*DO YOU THINK THEY SHOULD TRUST HIM TO KEEP HIS PROMISES TO THEM?\*

# Lesson Outline

*The LORD is merciful and just*

LESSON OUTLINE  
NUMBERS 11-14



*Despite all that the works and miracles that the LORD had shown them to prove His power and care for them, the people yet again acted faithless on their way to the land.*

1. Some were not trusting in God to get them to the land, so they complained.
  - a. The LORD's response: The LORD's fire consumed some of them
  - b. Moses response: He prayed for them and the LORD relented
2. Some stopped appreciating the manna the LORD provided and grumbled for meat, desiring to return to Egypt where they had fish to eat rather than press on toward the land.
  - a. The LORD's response: The LORD stuffed them with quail and brought a plague upon them
  - b. Moses response: He has a lapse of faith and does not pray for them
3. 12 spies were sent out to spy out the land of Canaan. They discovered it was the good land the LORD promised, but they feared the big bad people of the land. Because they feared man instead of trusting the LORD to fight their battles for them, they (except for 2 spies, Caleb and Joshua) and the people refused to go take the land.
  - a. The LORD's response: The LORD wanted to wipe out the whole nation and start over with Moses alone.
  - b. Moses' response: He appealed to the LORD's character – that He is slow to anger and loyal to His covenant – to show forgiveness so that the surrounding nations would see His true character.
  - c. Result: The LORD forgave Israel, but He by no means will leave the guilty unpunished. This entire generation will die in the wilderness without seeing the land, and the next generation will take the land.

**\*\*After the LORD told this generation they could not enter the land because of unbelief, they quickly changed their tune and attempted to enter the land without the LORD going with them... Because the LORD's presence was not with them, they were defeated by the people of the land.**

Now we wait for the next generation to be ready to take the land...



## Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.

### Ages 3-5

1. **In this part of the story, is God's special nation, Israel trusting God to keep His promises?**  
NO
2. **Did God promise the land to Israel?**  
Yes
3. **Will God give the land to Israel?**  
Yes
4. **How many of the 12 spies believe God would do what He promised?**  
Only two.
5. **How did God reward the 2 faithful spies?**  
They would get to go to the promised land but the rest of their generation, including Moses, would not.

### Grades 1-6

1. **What does this part of the story tell us about God's special nation, Israel?**  
Israel does not trust God to keep His promises to them.
2. **Which promises does Israel believe God will not keep?**
  - a. God will not get them to the land as He promised.
  - b. God will not provide them victory over their enemies in the land as He promised.
  - c. God will not provide them abundant food to eat as He promised.
3. **How is God using Moses in this part of the story?**  
Moses is the go between for the people with God.
4. **What is Moses' supposed to do when Israel complains against God?**
  - a. Pray to God on the people's behalf.
  - b. Warn the people of God's coming judgment for their unfaithfulness.
5. **Does Moses do his job?**  
Sometimes yes and sometimes no
  - a. Yes, Moses prays, and God stops His judgment when the people complain about going to the land.
  - b. No, Moses does not pray when the people complain about only having manna to eat.
  - c. Yes, Moses reminds God of His character which is slow to anger toward His special nation.
6. **How does God respond to Moses and to the people?**
  - a. God stops His punishment before He wipes out all the people for their sin.
  - b. God gives the people quail to eat instead of manna.
  - c. God judges the faithless generation by forbidding them to go into the promised land. Only the 2 faithful spies, Joshua and Caleb, would get to go.
7. **How did Israel respond to God's judgment?**  
They tried to take the land without God's help or permission and were defeated.
8. **How does God treat Israel for not trusting Him to keep His promises?**  
God gives mercy to Israel by not giving them what they deserve but also punishes their disobedience.