

## ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .

### BITTER WATERS

#### WELCOME

- ❖ Since we are starting a brand new series, take some time and get acquainted with each other, who you are, where you are from, occupation, etc.
- ❖ Review some of the important things you picked up on the last session about the Exodus.
- ❖ **Hook** into the subject by answering this question, “Did you ever get into something that at first was very exciting, but eventually turned out to be a very bitter, or bad, experience? What happened?”

#### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing three or four songs on the goodness and the greatness of God.  
Suggestions: #99 “Blessed Be the Name of the Lord,” #108 “His Name Is Wonderful,” #137 “King of Kings,” #151 “Father, I Adore You.” (All from Maranatha! Music Praise book 3)
- ❖ Go around the room with each person sharing one thing they appreciate about God.
- ❖ Then break into groups of three or four and pray for each other.

#### WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Exodus 15:22-27 aloud. One person can read it or you can go around the circle and each person read a verse. Then quickly answer the following questions:
  - ❖ What had the Children of Israel just been through? Exodus 14:15-31.
  - ❖ Why were they in the wilderness in the first place? Exodus 12:17-19
  - ❖ How much time had elapsed between that great experience and what was happening to them now?
  - ❖ What did they run out of? To what place had they come?
  - ❖ What did the people do about this situation? And what did Moses do? And what did God tell Moses to do?
  - ❖ What conditions and promises did God lay down for His people?
  - ❖ **Look:** Why do you think God allowed His people to have such an experience as this?
  - ❖ What do you think of God’s way of solving their problem?
  - ❖ What do you think the bitter water experience might have represented?

- ❖ What do you think of what God said He would do for them if they would just be faithful to Him and listen to His voice and do what He asked them to do? Do you think God can be trusted?
- ❖ **Took:** What is the best thing you can do with a bitter water experience?
- ❖ How far are you willing to follow the Lord when the chips are down?
- ❖ Is there anything in your life right now that you think you need to turn over to the Lord so that you can have a better life or be healthier and more productive?

### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Since this is a brand-new session with a new set of lessons, you have the option of going over your old Blessing List or starting a new one.
- ❖ If you know someone you would like to invite to your new Ohana group, please do so.
- ❖ Select a prayer partner, then take two or three of the names on the Blessing List and pray for them together.
- ❖ Remember to contact your prayer partner this week.
- ❖ At the close of the session, put an empty chair in the middle of the group and pray that God will fill it with someone next week.

**ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

## MANNA, WHAT IS IT?

### WELCOME

- ❖ Take a few minutes to chat. Make sure that if there is someone new in the group, that you share with them what these Ohana lessons are about.
- ❖ **Hook** into the topic by answering this question: “Has there ever been a time when you’ve gone several days without food? How did you feel during that period? And how did you feel when you finally get food?”

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing three or four songs about the bountiful blessings of the Lord.  
Suggestions: #20 “Because He Lives,” #55 “He Is Able,” #108 “His Name Is Wonderful,” #155 “Father, I Adore You.” (All from Maranatha Praise Book 3)
- ❖ As you come to the close of the worship time, take a few moments and think about how God has blessed you.
- ❖ In groups of two or three, thank the Lord for what He has done for you and for those in your group. If there are any special needs, remember these also.

### WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Exodus 16. Since it’s quite long, try reading it by paragraphs. Also try reading out of a newer translation such as the NIV or the New Living Bible. Quickly answer the following questions:
- ❖ How long had they been in the wilderness when this event took place?
- ❖ What did they now run out of and what was their reaction?
- ❖ What did the Lord promise Moses?
- ❖ What specifics did God tell Moses to share with His people:
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- ❖ What was this new food called and why?
- ❖ Instead of absolutely obeying God’s word, what did some of the people do?  
Results:
- ❖ What did God tell Moses do with an omer of this food and why?
- ❖ **Look:** After all that God had already brought them through, why do you think they kept getting upset with God and their circumstances?

- ❖ Why would God be so specific with His command to His people?
- ❖ Why do you think God told His people not to go out and gather food on the Sabbath? What's the big deal about this Sabbath day, anyway?
- ❖ **Took:** Do we really believe God can do anything He wants? That He is all-powerful?
- ❖ Did you ever get upset with God over some situation that you found yourself in? Why?
- ❖ Just how far are you willing to go with God in your trust and faithfulness?
- ❖ Take a few moments and pray for each other in groups of two. If someone is facing a crisis, be sure to lift them up in prayer. Pray that we all may trust God like we should.

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Go over the Blessing List. Share what is happening with those you are praying for.
- ❖ Close by having someone pray for the group.
- ❖ Remember to pray that someone will fill the empty chair next week.

**ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

**OUT OF WATER AGAIN**

## WELCOME

- ❖ Take a few minutes and share how this past week went.
- ❖ If you have someone new in the group, get acquainted with them. Make sure they understand what you are studying.
- ❖ **Hook** into this week's topic by answering this question: Have you ever gotten so thirsty that you would be willing to pay any price to get a sip of water or something to drink?

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing three or four songs on God's love and greatness. Suggestions: #55 "He Is Able," #248 "What A Mighty God We Serve," #268 "The Battle Belongs To The Lord," #212 "Majesty." (All from Maranatha Praise Book 3)
- ❖ Have someone pray a prayer of thanks for what God has done for you.

## WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Exodus 17:1-7 aloud, then quickly answer these questions:
  - ❖ Who was really leading the children of Israel there in the wilderness?
  - ❖ What place did they finally come to and what did they discover? And what did the people start to do again?
  - ❖ What did Moses say? And what was their response to Moses?
  - ❖ What did Moses finally do in desperation?
  - ❖ What did God instruct Moses to do and with what results?
  - ❖ What two names did they give that place and why?
- ❖ **Look:** Again, the question: What do you think was God's purpose in leading them into this desolate place?
- ❖ Why do you think they kept complaining after all that God had done for them in the past?
- ❖ How would you like to lead a group of people like this?
- ❖ **Took:** If God were to put you in charge of a group of stubborn, obstinate people like this, what would you do to bring about law and order?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

❖ What kind of a connection do you have with God right now?

(Note: this is a very important question, because God wants to use you. He has a special work just for you to do. Maybe He wants you to be a leader.)

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Take time to pray for each other either in groups of two or three or holding hands and going around the circle and praying for the person on your right. Pray that God's will might be carried out in your life and in the life of the person on your right.
- ❖ Don't forget to pray for the empty chair.

**ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

**SUDDEN ATTACK**

## WELCOME

- ❖ Share a bit how the past week went. If you have someone new in the group, make sure you get acquainted with them. Explain to them what you have been studying and the Ohana principles.
- ❖ **Hook** into the topic by answering this question: Have you ever had a time when you felt you were being unfairly attacked by someone either at work or in your neighborhood or maybe at church? What happened?

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing some songs about the faithfulness of God and how He will never let you down. Here are some suggestions: #51 “Fear Not,” #55 “He Is Able,” #11 “Great Is The Lord,” #7 “Give Thanks.” (All from Maranatha Praise Book 3)
- ❖ After singing, turn to the person next to you and pray that God’s spirit will be poured out upon that person this week.

## WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Exodus 17:8-16 and quickly answer the following questions:
  - ❖ Again, who was it that led the children of Israel to Rephidim?
  - ❖ What did the Amalekites do to the children of Israel at Rephidim?
  - ❖ What was Moses’ response to this horrible problem?
  - ❖ Describe how the battle was fought:
    - Location of Moses:
    - What happened to Moses:
    - Who came to his rescue?
    - Who fought the battle:
    - What was the final outcome of this conflict?
  - ❖ After the conflict, what did Moses do and what did he name the place and why?
  - ❖ **Look:** Take some time to discuss these questions:
    - ❖ Why would an all-knowing God deliberately lead His people into a place called Rephidim?
    - ❖ Who were these Amalekites? What do they represent? Why would they attack Israel?
    - ❖ What do you think of Moses’ battle plan?

- ❖ **Took:** Where are you right now in your spiritual journey?
- ❖ Who would be some Amalekites in your life?
- ❖ What do you think are three essentials to winning any spiritual conflict?
- ❖ What kind of an altar would you like to build to the Lord right now? What would you name it?

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Take a few minutes and brainstorm with the group on how we could help people in our community better understand the power of God, what He can and will do for the world and for us.
- ❖ Look at The Blessing List. If you want to add names, do so.
- ❖ Don't forget to pray that God will lead you to someone with whom you can share Jesus this week.
- ❖ Pray for the empty chair. And that God will use you to fill the empty chair.
- ❖ End your Ohana by praying with your prayer partner.

**ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

**ISRAEL REORGANIZED**



## WELCOME

- ❖ Take a few moments and share how this past week went. Also make sure you welcome any one who might be new. Make sure they understand what Ohana is all about.
- ❖ After a few moments of fellowship, *hook* into the topic by answering this question: “What is some of the best advice you ever received? Who gave it to you and why did they give it?”

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing three or four songs of praise to God. Praise him for his wisdom and power. Suggestions: #233 There Is Something About That Name,” #238 “Oh, How He Loves You and Me,” #285 “Surely The Presence of the Lord.” (All from Maranatha Praise Book 3.)
- ❖ Now take some time and praise God in prayer. Also, remember to pray for any special needs anyone mentions.

## WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Exodus 18 aloud to get you thinking about this passage and quickly answer these questions:
- ❖ Where was Moses’ wife and family during all these preceding events?
- ❖ When Jethro and his daughter got the news about Moses and his people, what did they immediately do?
- ❖ What were the names of Moses’ two sons and what do the names mean?
- ❖ When Moses’ family arrived, what did Moses immediately share with his father-in-law, Jethro?
- ❖ What did Jethro observe about Moses’ style of leadership and what did he suggest that Moses should do?
- ❖ What did Moses do with his father-in-law’s advice?
- ❖ **Look:** Why do you think God did not want Moses’ wife to go with him to Egypt?
- ❖ Try to imagine what the reunion must have been like between Moses and his family.
- ❖ What do you think about Moses’ style of leadership up to this point? How would you describe it? And what do you think about his father-in-law’s advice? Good? Bad? Other?
- ❖ Do you think implementing Jethro’s ideas was a blessing? Why or why not?
- ❖ **Took:** What is your current style of leadership?
  - dictator

- directive diplomat
- sharing
- mentoring
- withdrawn

Note: There are no right or wrong styles of leadership. We are all unique. What we want to do is to make sure we are open for advice on how we can become better leaders.

- ❖ Is there anything in this story that might help you to become a better leader?
- ❖ Is there anything that you have learned in this story that you could implement in your life immediately?

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Again, take a few minutes and follow up on last week's brainstorming when you talked about how you could reach your immediate community with the story of Jesus.
- ❖ In groups of two to four, pray together. Remember to pray that God will fill the empty chair.
- ❖ During the week, contact your prayer partner and least once and pray together.

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**MEETING GOD A SECOND TIME**

**WELCOME**

- ❖ Welcome everyone who has come to your Ohana fellowship and share with each other how your past week went. Make sure that anybody who is new is brought up to speed about what you are doing as a group.
- ❖ **Hook** into this session topic by asking this question: “Have you ever had a time when you felt God was especially close to you or maybe even spoke to you, either audibly or through some other means?”

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing three or four songs how the God of the universe cares for each one of us individuals. #263 “One God,” #248 “What A Mighty God We Serve,” #47 “Jesus, Name Above All Names,” #55 “He Is Able.” (All from Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ For your prayer time, join hands and have two or three people pray and thank God for what He has already done and is going to do.

## WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Exodus 19 aloud. Then, to help you get a better feel on this event, quickly answer the following questions:
  - ❖ How many months after they left Egypt, did they have this second encounter with God?
  - ❖ What is so significant about Mount Sinai? See Ex. 3:1-12
  - ❖ Note: God fulfilled a promise to Moses. Think about how mighty this God is.
  - ❖ When Moses began climbing up into the mountain to see God, what did God remind him of? What did God promise Moses and what kinds of conditions did God put on His promise?
  - ❖ When Moses presented God’s proposal to the children of Israel, what did they say?
  - ❖ What kind of instruction did God now give Moses and why?
  - ❖ **Look:** Spend more time on this section than the previous one.
  - ❖ Try to describe what the scene was like when God came down on Mt. Sinai:
    - ❖ As you look at all that the children of Israel went through, can you see how God might be leading them step-by-step in their wilderness experience? If yes, how?
    - ❖ What do you think of God’s promise to Moses in Exodus 19:4-6?

Note: take some time here. Go back and read Exodus 9:4-6.

- ❖ Why would God send Moses back to tell His people, “do not cross the line, because if you do, you will die”?
- ❖ As you’ve been reading the Israelites wanderings, what do you think of God’s method of leading His people?
- ❖ **Took:** What has God been saying to you lately?
- ❖ What has been your relationship with God lately?
- ❖ What can you take from this story that might help you in your every day walk of life?

### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Take a few more minutes and brainstorm about how you as a group and/or individuals can share Jesus with the people around you. Take at least five minutes on this.
- ❖ Break up into groups of two to four and pray for each other and for your dreams of reaching out and influencing other people. Don’t forget the empty chair.

### **ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

#### **GOD’S TEN RULES FOR LIVING**

### **WELCOME**

- ❖ Take ten to fifteen minutes to fellowship and share. Make sure you welcome anyone new to your Ohana group.

- ❖ **Hook** into the topic by answering this question: “When was the first time you really began to realize how important God’s ten commandments are in your every-day living?”

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing several songs on God’s awesomeness and coming into His presence. #15 “Come Into His Presence,” #5 “Come On and Celebrate,” #11 “Great Is the Lord,” #13 “How Great You are.” (All from Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ Have prayer, praising God for who He is and what He can and has done for you and your Ohana.

### WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Exodus 20:1-21 aloud and then quickly answer these questions:
- ❖ How did God start His conversation with Moses before He gave His rules for life?
- ❖ How many rules are there?
- ❖ How would you divide these ten rules?
- ❖ How were the people affected by what they saw and heard?
- ❖ What did Moses say to them to calm their nerves?
- ❖ **Look:** What do you think is the basis for these ten rules of God? Explain your answer.
- ❖ Share your ideas on when you think these ten rules might have first come into being; and/or when they first became known.
- ❖ What part does fear play in keeping a person from sinning?
- ❖ **Took:** How do you think you would feel if God made Himself known to you like He did to the Israelites back there on Mt. Sinai?
- ❖ As you look at these ten rules of God, how do you think you measure up to them?
- ❖ Do you think it’s possible to come to the place where you could keep these ten rules perfectly? Explain your answer.

### WITNESS

- ❖ Take five to ten minutes and go over your outreach projects that you have been working on. Try setting some dates.
- ❖ Make sure you go over the Blessing List.

- ❖ Form into groups of two or three and pray for your outreach project, the blessing list, and don't forget the empty chair.

**ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LIVING**

**WELCOME**

- ❖ Take a few moments and share your week with each other; good, bad, other, etc.

- ❖ Greet anyone who might be new. Make sure you explain what you are studying and how.
- ❖ **Hook** into the topic by sharing some experience when you might have received a ticket for speeding or called in by the IRS.

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing some songs on the goodness and justice of God #11, “Great Is The Lord,” #15 “Come Into His Presence,” #51 “Fear Not,” #93 “I Will Delight.” (From Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ Ask if there is anyone in your group who has a special need. Then have two or three people pray for these special needs and for God’s blessing on the Ohana.

## WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Quickly scan Exodus 21-23. Notice the subtitles. You just might want to read a few of these sections such as Exodus 21:2-11; 21:12-26.  
Note: there is so much to read here that you might just want to read a few of these paragraphs. Answer the following questions:

- ❖ What kind of laws are these?

Note: there are four sets of laws here in the Old Testament:

1. God’s 10 Commandments.
  2. Civil laws which interpret and define God’s Laws—how to apply His commands in every day life.
  3. Health laws. Lev. 16 is a good example of these laws. God wants us to live long, healthy, happy lives and He wants us to have the promise of life everlasting.
  4. Ceremonial or sacrificial laws. How sin was to be dealt with.
- ❖ Note the severity of punishment. What was the punishment for kidnapping or cursing or stealing?
  - ❖ What was God’s promise to His people if they obeyed His laws?
  - ❖ **Look:** Why would God be so tough?
  - ❖ What do you think of our laws today for killing, kidnapping, stealing?
  - ❖ How do they compare with God’s civil laws?
  - ❖ In chapter 23:14-19, God talks about three annual feasts. Where do these laws fit into the scheme of life?
  - ❖ What do you think of God’s method of clearing out the Promised Land so His people could possess it? Exodus 23:36-32.

- ❖ **Took:** How would you apply all these rules and regulations to your life today? Or how important are they to your living?
- ❖ Do you believe that this God of Israel has given us the same promise that if we will only obey Him, He will clear out the way for us to live?
- ❖ In what way do Christians today make treaties with sin? In your own life, can you see where you have made some treaties with sin?
- ❖ What steps must we take to get back on track with God, so He can come through on His promises?
- ❖ At this time, take time to find out if there might be some special needs. Form into groups of two (You might do this with prayer partners) and pray for each other, especially where we are in our spiritual walk with God.

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Take up to ten minutes to finalize your outreach plans for helping your community to know more about God.
- ❖ Pray for your Blessing List. If you have names to add, do so.
- ❖ Pray that God will lead you to someone with whom you can share Jesus with.
- ❖ Pray for your church that it might be what God wants it to be.

**ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

#### **THE SANCTUARY**

#### **WELCOME**

- ❖ Take a few minutes for fellowship. Share how your week went.



- ❖ **Hook** into the session topic by answering this question: “have you ever had the experience of reading or studying your Bible and all of a sudden catching a glimpse of something you have never seen before?” How did it make you feel?

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing three or four songs on the greatness of God, His glory, power, and majesty. #248 “Awesome God,” #239 “Rejoice in the Lord Always,” #224 “We Will Glorify.” #323 “You are My Refuge.” (All from Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ Invite someone in the group to pray asking God to open our eyes to see His glory and greatness.

## WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Exodus 25:1-9 aloud, then quickly scan the sub-titles from Exodus 25 to 30. Notice what these titles are, “Plans for the Ark,” “Plans for the Table of Shewbread,” “Plans for the Lamp Stand,” “Clothing for the Priests,” “Dedication of the Priests,” “Plans for the Incense Altar,” “Money for the Tabernacle,” “Plans for the Washbasin,” “How to make the anointing oil,” “How to Make the Incense.”

Note: as you look at these sub-topics, there might be something that grabs you. If you want, take a few moments to read a couple of these sub-topics. Now quickly answer these questions:

- ❖ What do all these sub-titles pertain to?
- ❖ What were some of the items that were needed to build and equip the sanctuary and where did these items come from?
- ❖ Describe what the sanctuary was to look like; the size, dimensions, the look of the ark of the covenant, etc.
- ❖ Describe the garments of the priests and how they were to be dedicated.
- ❖ **Look:** Why would God be so particular about how this tabernacle was to look?
- ❖ What was this tabernacle all about?
- ❖ Under what set of laws would you say the tabernacle and its services fall? Why?
- ❖ **Took:** How do you think this sanctuary service might affect your life today, especially your sins and your emotions about your sins?

- ❖ As you surveyed this sanctuary and its services, is there something that you read that particularly touched you?

Note: If you would like to know more about this subject, you might want to get the book, *Patriarchs and Prophets* and read chapters 30 and 32.

### **WITNESS**

- ❖ It is now time to begin putting into action any of your outreach projects. What have you planned? Make this your week of action. If you've already done so, please share your story of what has happened.
- ❖ It is also time to start thinking and planning of when and how you will start new Ohana groups.
- ❖ Start reading the directions in your Ohana manual on why Ohana is important and how to start these groups.
- ❖ Form into groups of two to four and pray for your Blessing List and for each other.

**On the way to the promised land . . .**

**ISRAEL'S LOWEST SPIRITUAL POINT**

**WELCOME**

- ❖ Take a few minutes to share how your past week went. If you have anybody who is new to the group, please share with them what you are studying.
- ❖ **Hook** into this topic by answering this question: “Have you ever had an experience where one day everything was great and rosy and then the next day something happened that put you into a real tailspin and you found yourself doubting God and maybe doing things that were wrong?”

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing three to four songs about the all-knowing and powerful God. Suggestions: #219 “Our God Reigns,” #212 “Majesty,” #47 “Jesus, Name Above All Names,” #268 “The Battle Belongs to the Lord.” (All from Maranatha Praise Book 3)
- ❖ Form into groups of two to four and spend some time praying for each other. Especially pray for any needs among your Ohana.

## WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Exodus 32 aloud and quickly answer the following questions:
  - ❖ Where was Moses and where was God when all this happened?
  - ❖ What was the Israelites’ command to Aaron and what was Aaron’s response?
  - ❖ What did the Lord tell Moses to quickly do and why?
  - ❖ What did God say He was going to do with the rebellious Israelites? And what was Moses’ response?
  - ❖ As Moses came down from the mountain and saw what was going on, what did he shout? Who responded? And what was his command?
  - ❖ What did Moses finally do with the golden calf?
- ❖ **Look:** Why do you think those people would do such a horrible thing when they had all the visible evidence they needed to see God?
- ❖ What do you think of God’s reaction to destroy them? And Moses’ pleading not to destroy them?
- ❖ It seemed like God frequently allowed plagues to fall on His people. Why would He do this?
- ❖ **Took:** How much evidence do you think you need to know there really is a God in heaven who knows everything.
- ❖ As you look into your own life, do you see that there might be a “golden calf” or two that is causing you trouble?

- ❖ What do you think you have to do to get rid of these golden calves so you can get back into a right relationship with God?
- ❖ Do you understand why sometimes you have a lot of difficult times in your life?

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ We need to begin thinking about when we are going to start additional Ohana groups. Take a few minutes to discuss it among yourselves.
- ❖ Do some more reading in the Ohana manual.
- ❖ Pray for each other to have faith to move out and establish Ohana groups.
- ❖ Don't forget to pray for the empty chair.

**ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

**REBELLION IN THE RANKS**

**WELCOME**

- ❖ Take a few minutes and share your life experiences of this past week. If there is anyone new, greet them and explain what you are studying.
- ❖ **Hook** into today's topic by answering this question: "Have you ever been greatly disappointed with people, yourself or even the church in your walk with God?" Why? What happened?
- ❖ Open with prayer, remembering to pray for any special needs of the group and for God's Spirit to be with you in your study.

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing three or four songs on your need for God. #180 "I Will Call Upon the Lord," #109 "I Need You." #86 "Draw Me Into Your Presence," #155 "Father, I Adore You." (From Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ At the close of your singing, form into groups of two to four and pray for each other and for the Holy Spirit.

## WORD

- ❖ Brief Review:

So far in this series, we have covered the early experience of the children of Israel in the wilderness. They had been delivered from bondage and been set free to begin a new way of living. (Justification) For over two months now, they have been traveling under God's guidance. And as we've already seen, they've gone through a lot during these two months

- They had a bitter water experience.
- They ran out of food
- They ran out of water.
- They had been attacked by Amalekites.
- They had come face to face with God on Mt. Sinai where He personally came down and gave them instruction on how they could live a longer and more fulfilled life. As you remember, God not only gave them His ten rules to live by, He gave them three other sets of laws;
  1. Civil laws
  2. Health laws
  3. Sacrificial or ceremonial laws which basically had to do with how God was going to deal with the sin problem. If you would like a more complete understanding of these various laws, read the book of Leviticus and the book *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 343-373.

At the base of Mt. Sinai, the children of Israel slipped their lowest, spiritually. In plain sight of God, they made a golden calf and were in the process of worshipping it when God, working through Moses, dramatically stopped their spiritual tumble.

They were at the base of Mt. Sinai for almost two years, but now it was time for the people, under the leadership of Moses, to move on to the Promised Land.

The first thing God told Moses to do at this point was to take a census. And it is discovered that there are 603,550 men besides women and children.

Numbers 1:46. This does not include the Levites who have been appointed as keepers of the sanctuary.

Next God organized the people into tribes and into four major groups. Numbers 2-8. Then they celebrated their second Passover. Numbers 9. Now, God is ready to take His people on the second leg of the journey into the Promised Land. Numbers 10:11-36.

But almost immediately there is trouble. In Numbers 11, we find that God's people begin to gripe and complain to God about their hardships. God has to move quickly to stop their rebellion. Numbers 11:1-3.

But the griping continues despite all the blessings from God. They continue their complaining. Even Aaron and Miriam, Moses' brother and sister, start complaining about their brother's leadership.

God has to keep intervening, showing His power and glory. And they are now on the borders of the Promised Land. This brings us to Numbers 13 which is today's lesson.

- ❖ **Book:** Read Numbers 13 and 14 , then quickly answer these questions:
- ❖ How many men were sent to spy out the Promised Land and why?
- ❖ How long were they gone?
- ❖ When they came back from their trip, what was the good news and what was the bad news?
- ❖ Of the twelve men, how many felt they were like grasshoppers?
- ❖ Who among these men, felt they could take the Promised Land through God's power?
- ❖ What was the people's reaction?
- ❖ What did God do to stop the rebellion?
- ❖ Because of unbelief, what did God now decree?
- ❖ What happened to the ten rebellious leaders?
- ❖ What did the people now try to do and what were the disastrous results?
- ❖ **Look:** What do you think is the real problem here?
- ❖ Why would God seemingly be so hard on these people?
- ❖ **Took:** What kind of faith do you have right now?
  - ❑ I want to check the land out.
  - ❑ I'm not quite fully trusting God
  - ❑ I feel like rebelling

- I'm ready and anxious to go into the Promised Land despite the apparent obstacles.
- ❖ What is keeping us from entering into God's promised land now?
- ❖ What do you think of this statement: "We have got to come to the place where it is God's will, God's way, when God wants it done. Only then can we enter into the Promised Land"?

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Read a few more sections from the booklet on Ohana groups on how to get a group started. Start setting some dates as to when you will start your Ohana group.
- ❖ Close by breaking up into groups of two to four. Pray for your prayer partner. Pray for your projects. Pray for the Ohana groups that will start soon.

**ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

**REBELLION CONTINUES WITH KORAH, DATHAN AND ABIRAM**

## WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each person and take a few minutes to share how your week went. If you have any new people, share what you are studying.
- ❖ **Hook** into today's topic by sharing a time when you found yourself involved in some kind of a hassle (family, church, work). Note: if this is something that is very touchy or you feel you might get too emotionally involved in sharing it, you do not have to share.

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing three or four songs about God's awesomeness, goodness and justice. Suggestions: #151 "Father, I Adore You," #199 "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High," #213 "Rock of My Salvation," #222 "Reign in Me." (All from Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ Have an opening prayer

## WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read aloud Numbers 16 and 17. If you have twelve people in your group, each can read five verses. Then quickly answer these questions:
  - ❖ Who was involved in this rebellion? What was their position and power?
  - ❖ What was their accusation against Moses?
  - ❖ What was Moses' reaction and then his response?
  - ❖ What did Moses initially try to do? Did it work?
  - ❖ In the showdown, what happened to the rebellious leaders and to 250 of their followers?
  - ❖ What happened the very next morning?
  - ❖ What was God's reaction? Then Moses' and Aaron's reaction to what happened?
  - ❖ How was the plague stopped?
  - ❖ How did God prove once and for all that Moses and Aaron were the true leaders of Israel?
- ❖ **Look:** Take some time to answer these questions:
  - ❖ In the face of all that had already transpired, how could these men do what they did? What do you think was really behind the rebellion?
  - ❖ Again, why would God be so hard on these people?



- ❖ Why do you think God would use the budding of Aaron's rod to prove that Moses and Aaron were really their leaders?
- ❖ **Think:** What kind of feelings do you get about God when you read this story? Do you think that maybe God was a little harsh?
- ❖ In light of this story, what steps would you take to stop a rebellion in your home, at work or maybe at church?

### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Read and study some more out of the Ohana handbook. Begin setting dates when you will be starting other Ohana groups.
- ❖ Begin making up a prayer list of those you want to come to your Ohana.
- ❖ In groups of four, pray for each other's interest lists.
- ❖ During the week, keep praying for these names and remember to pray for your prayer partner.

**ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

**MOSES BLOWS IT AGAIN**

**WELCOME**

- ❖ Greet each other and share with each other what happened in the past week.
- ❖ Hook into the topic by sharing one of your most embarrassing moments.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing some songs about how God is totally trustworthy and how His love never fails. #47, “Jesus, Name Above All Names,” #48 “I Cast All My Cares Upon Him,” #232 “Thy Loving Kindness,” #233 “There’s Something About That Name.” (From Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ Then have two or three people pray, thanking God for all His loving kindness and mercy.

### WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Numbers 20:1-13 aloud and then quickly answer the following questions:
- ❖ Where were the children of Israel at in their wanderings when this happened? And what caused Moses to get so emotional?
- ❖ What did God tell Moses to do and how did he disobey?
- ❖ How did God respond to Moses’ disobedience? See also Numbers 27:12-14.
- ❖ What name was given to this place and why?
- ❖ **Look:** Take a few moments and discuss Moses’ anger. Why do you think he became so angry? Is it wrong to get angry? Why did he blow it?
- ❖ Do you have any ideas on what caused him to blow it? What do you believe he could or should have done?
- ❖ Why would God be so tough on Moses? Up to this time, Moses had done a pretty good job of leading his people, then one little mistake. Why make a federal case of it?

Note: It must be made very clear that God did not forsake or reject Moses because of his mistake. Because later on, we discover that God had a special resurrection for Moses and today he is in heaven. See Jude 9, Mark 9:4, Romans 5:14.

- ❖ **Took:** Have you ever found yourself getting angry or upset over the way God’s people are reacting? What have you done when this happens?
- ❖ Have you ever felt because of some of your past mistakes, God may have forsaken you? If so, what steps do you think you need to take to get back into a relationship with God?

- ❖ Do you have some past places in your life that you could call “Maraba”? (Maraba means having a quarrel or arguing with God. Where are you right now in your relationship with God?)

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Continue planning when you are going to be starting your own Ohana group. If you haven't already finished the little study guide on Ohana groups, read some more in it this week.
- ❖ In groups of two to four, pray about the starting of your Ohana groups.
- ❖ Make sure you pray for those you want to attend your Ohanas.
- ❖ Try praying for these people all week long.

**ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

**BITTEN BY SIN**

## WELCOME

- ❖ Take about ten minutes to visit, sharing your experiences of the past week.
- ❖ **Hook** into the session topic by answering this question: “Have you ever been so sick you thought you might die? What happened?”

## WITNESS

- ❖ Share what has happened with your plans of starting an Ohana group. Share the dates and the people you invited to your group. If you’ve already started, share how it went.
- ❖ Take a few minutes to pray for each other to pray about the groups that have already started or those which are starting soon.
- ❖ Make a pact to pray for each other this week, especially remembering those who will be starting Ohana groups in the next couple of weeks.
- ❖ Form into groups of two to four and pray for each other, especially for the start of your new Ohanas.

## WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Numbers 21:1-9 aloud and quickly discuss the following questions to get the story fixed in your mind:
- ❖ Who now attacked the children of Israel and with what results?
- ❖ After a few more days of traveling toward the Promised Land, what did the children of Israel again start doing?
- ❖ What did God now allow to happen and with what disastrous results?
- ❖ What did the people immediately do?
- ❖ What does God now instruct Moses to do and with what amazing results?
- ❖ **Look:** Why do you think these people would go from a tremendous high to such a low in such a short time?
- ❖ The Bible says that the Lord sent the poisonous snakes. What do you think? What really happened?

Note: A lot of deserts are known for their poisonous snakes. Do you think maybe they had been there all the time but God had protected His people from these vipers up to this point?

- ❖ What do you think is the significance of putting a bronze snake on a pole so those who had been bitten could look at it and be healed?

- ❖ **Took:** Compare this event with Christ's words in John 12:32 "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." How would you apply this to your sinful life?
  
- ❖ What else do you get out of this story that could help you?
  
- ❖ Where are you when it comes to dealing with the snakes of sin?
  - Great shape, no problems
  - Recently been bitten by some sin
  - Right now I'm hurting a lot
  - I've looked to Jesus and received healing
  - What I need now is prayer.
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- ❖ How do you think we can keep from being bitten by sin in the future?

#### **WORSHIP**

- ❖ Sing three or four songs on the healing power of Jesus and what He can do for us as sinners. Suggestions: #227 "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," #102 "He Is Our Peace," #50 "Change My Heart, O God," #277 "Spirit of the Living God." (All from Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ Close by forming a circle and praying for the person on your right. If they have any specific needs, pray for these needs.

**ON THE WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND . . .**

**AT LONG LAST -- PARADISE!**

## Welcome

- ❖ Take a few minutes and fellowship. Share how things went this past week.
- ❖ **Hook** into today's topic by answering this question: "Have you ever wanted something so badly that you actually dreamed about it? Did you ever get it? If so, how?" What happened?

## WITNESS

- ❖ Share how your plans are coming along on starting new Ohana groups. If you just recently started a group, share how it is going. If need be, go over some more of the Ohana guidebook, since this is the last lesson in this series. Try to finish it today.
- ❖ Remember, the key to life is to share the good news about Jesus with those around you.
- ❖ At this point, share any prayer needs and victories you might have. Form into groups of two to four and pray for each other.

## WORD

- ❖ Last week we looked at the snakes of sin. This week we'll be looking at how the children of Israel finally made it to the Promised Land. Between these two periods of time a lot of good and a lot of bad things happened to God's people which we don't have time to look at. Later on, you might want to take some time to read what happened and then, using these Ohana principles, see if you can apply these principles to your life. You might be surprised at what you might learn. On your own, you might want to read and study the rest of Numbers, starting with Numbers 22. If you are really zealous, study the book of Deuteronomy.

**Book:** Read Joshua 3:1-17 aloud, and also Joshua 4:1-14. Then, answer the following questions:

- ❖ After reaching the banks of the Jordan river, how long did they have to wait for orders to cross over?
- ❖ What was the condition of the Jordan River at this time?
- ❖ What were the specific instructions?
- ❖ What was God's promise and how was it fulfilled?
- ❖ What strange command were they given after they had crossed the Jordan river and why?
- ❖ What effect did all this have on the people's attitude toward Joshua?
- ❖ **Look:** Do you have any ideas why God would make them sit there and wait for three days before giving instructions on how to cross the Jordan?

- ❖ What kind of faith do you think these priests had to step into those raging waters with the ark?
- ❖ What do you think about having a memorial in your own life or in the church?
- ❖ **Took:** Have you crossed the Jordan yet in your spiritual life?
- ❖ Do you have any memorials in your life? If so, share.

Note: In every person's spiritual life there are two bodies of water that must be crossed. First, we have to cross the Red Sea to come out of sin. Secondly, we must, by faith, cross the Jordan into the Promised Land. In between these two great events, there is this wilderness experience. **All new Christians will go through this wilderness. But the length of time that we stay in the wilderness depends on our faith.** To cross over Jordan into the Promised Land, we must have total faith in the fact that the God who brought us out of bondage is strong enough to take us into the Promised Land. It all amounts to total commitment to God.

#### **WORSHIP**

- ❖ Close this session by singing four to five songs about the glory of God and how great He is. #55 "He Is Able," #51 "Fear Not," #212 "Majesty," #208 "Thou Art Worthy." #268 "The Battle Belongs to the Lord." (From Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ Form a large circle and then invite as many as wish to pray, to do so. Thank God for His greatness. Pray for the person on your right.

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ You must now decide what you want to do for the next series of Ohana gatherings. Look over the materials. There are sessions such as "Encounters with Jesus," "Stories Jesus Told," "Acts of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century churches." "Going For The Gold." Choose one or of these or maybe think about studying some great book like Romans and then write your own Ohana lessons. Set the time for your next meeting.

**GOD BLESS YOU!**