

THE STORY
Wandering
Chapter 6 Numbers and Deuteronomy
October 8, 2023
Pastor Mike Popovich

Moses spent 40 years in the desert herding sheep.
None of that prepared him for the task of leading 1 million plus
people through the wilderness

WANDERING IN THE DESSERT

The children of Israel are going to wander in the dessert for 40
years.

Wandering: Living in the space between where I started and
where I want to be.

God is more concerned about who you are becoming than where
you are going.

What God does to us is often more important than what we are
waiting for.

WHINING AND COMPLAINING

*That night all the members of the community raised their voices and
wept aloud. 2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron,
and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt!
Or in this wilderness! 3 Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only
to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as
plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they
said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to
Egypt."*

Numbers 14:1-4 NIV

They complain about having no meat to eat. God will give them
meat.

*The riffraff among the people had a craving and soon they had the
People of Israel whining, "Why can't we have meat? We ate fish in
Egypt—and got it free!—to say nothing of the cucumbers and
melons, the leeks and onions and garlic. But nothing tastes good out
here; all we get is manna, manna, manna."*

Numbers 11:4-6 MSG

The themes of this story are

1. Whining and complaining
2. God's grace and provision

WHINING IS THE OPPOSITE OF WORSHIP

Worship is giving God glory for who He is and for what He has
done.

Whining is overlooking what God has done and thinking I could do
better.

*The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with
contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all
the signs I have performed among them?"*

Numbers 14:11 NIV

Complainers sing a similar song.

Everything God asks of me is too much.

Everything God has done for me is not enough.

We are bothered with the lower story of our lives, and that is
necessary but we are not looking up to see the big picture, the
upper story.

God holds up the walls of water of the Red Sea and we do not
notice.

We want to whine – we need to worship