



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of October 22, 2017

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a "worship discussion" guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Numbers 7 "Offerings"

- What is one of the greatest gifts you have ever received? What made it great?
- What effect does being generous have on your heart? How have you experienced challenges and temptations as you give? How has God changed your heart through the grace of generosity?
- Last week, we talked about God's blessing on His people. Read Number 6:24-27.

"The LORD bless you and keep you the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

 - What qualities marked the LORD's blessing of His people?
- God's blessing inaugurates a 12-day festival of giving detailed in Numbers 7. Read Numbers 7:1-3.

"¹ On the day when Moses had finished setting up the tabernacle and had anointed and consecrated it with all its furnishings and had anointed and consecrated the altar with all its utensils, ² the chiefs of Israel, heads of their fathers' houses, who were the chiefs of the tribes, who were over those who were listed, approached ³ and brought their offerings before the LORD, six wagons and twelve oxen, a wagon for every two of the chiefs, and for each one an ox. They brought them before the tabernacle."

 - One of the aspects of the festival is that it was the *whole community* practicing giving together, *in a very public manner*. A practice that is probably alien to many of us. Does this challenge you? Why do you think this communal practice would please God? Is there any place you have seen a church or Christian community practice generosity corporately?
- This passage certainly shows us that the LORD values generosity, and giving is to be a mark His people. This week's, *Words of Encouragement* came to us from II Corinthians 8:9, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich." What effect does God's the gift of His Son have on His Church? How has the gift of Jesus impacted your life recently? Is there a way God is calling you to follow Jesus in being generous?
- The 12-days of giving detailed in Numbers 7 culminates a meeting between the LORD and Moses. Read Numbers 7:89. "And when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim; and it spoke to him."
 - God blesses, His people respond, and then all enjoy His presence. We see this pattern ultimately fulfilled in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, whose love compels us as His people, and in the gift of His Spirit who lives in us. Pray for God to bless His church, pray for power to be generous, and thank God for His gracious, abiding presence with us.

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
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Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Numbers 7](#).

- Today's text stands out as the longest chapter in the Bible. Only Psalm 119 is longer and it really is not a chapter so much as a poem. It is also the most repetitive chapter in the whole Bible as well. What is described here is a multi-day festival of giving.
- Three sections in this chapter:
 1. Verses 1-9, Wagons and oxen
 2. Verses 10-88, Accounting of the Offering
 3. Verse 89, the fulfillment of the promise of God to speak with Moses in the Tabernacle (Exodus 25).
- Numbers 7:1-9, Wagons and Oxen
 - These are gifts given according to what the need was. Why did the sons of Kohath not get wagons?
 - These gifts are remarkable because the people saw a need and met it. But they also met the need in an appropriate way.
- Numbers 7:10-88 The gifts required for the daily functioning of the tabernacle.
 - Everyone gave. We primarily think of giving as an individual decision of stewardship between me and God. Here we see it as a community-wide event.
 - Everyone gave the same amount
 - Why and how?
 - The people are giving because they see a need.
 - They are also giving because God has given first.
 - God has promised blessing in [Numbers 6:22:27](#)
 - “The Lord bless you and keep you;
 - the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
 - the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”
- Numbers 7:89, The Results
 - As a result of all of this generosity the tabernacle now is functioning. God speaks to Moses from the mercy seat.