



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of January 14, 2018

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 11:4-35 “Enough”

- What are you craving these days?

Read Numbers 11:4-9

⁴ Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, “Oh that we had meat to eat!⁵ We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. ⁶ But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”

⁷ Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium. ⁸ The people went about and gathered it and ground it in handmills or beat it in mortars and boiled it in pots and made cakes of it. And the taste of it was like the taste of cakes baked with oil. ⁹ When the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell with it.

- What was the “manna”?
- Describe the craving & complaint of the rabble & the people.

Read Numbers 11:10-15

¹⁰ Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the LORD blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹ Moses said to the LORD, “Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? ¹² Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,’ to the land that you swore to give their fathers? ¹³ Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ ¹⁴ I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. ¹⁵ If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness.”

- How did the LORD respond to the people?
- **Look carefully at Moses’ prayer in 11-15.** Under the pressure of these complaints, what does Moses believe about God? About himself?

Read Numbers 11:16-23

¹⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. ¹⁷ And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone. ¹⁸ And say to the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat, for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat? For it was better for us in Egypt.” Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. ¹⁹ You shall not eat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, ²⁰ but a whole month, until it comes out at your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before him, saying, “Why did we come out of Egypt?”’” ²¹ But Moses said, “The people among whom I am number six hundred thousand on foot, and you have said, ‘I will give them meat, that they may eat a whole month!’ ²² Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, and be enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be

gathered together for them, and be enough for them?" ²³ And the LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD's hand shortened? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not."

- The LORD **answers Moses' two requests**—and He addresses the spirit in which the 600,000 have complained. How does The LORD answer each request? Why does He answer in this way?

Read Numbers 11:24-30

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

²⁶ Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸ And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them." ²⁹ But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!" ³⁰ And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

- How did the LORD affirm the selection of the seventy elders?
- What concern arises within the camp?
- How does Moses respond to this event?

Read Numbers 11:31-35

³¹ Then a wind from the LORD sprang up, and it brought quail from the sea and let them fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, around the camp, and about two cubits above the ground. ³² And the people rose all that day and all night and all the next day, and gathered the quail. Those who gathered least gathered ten homers. And they spread them out for themselves all around the camp. ³³ While the meat was yet between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck down the people with a very great plague. ³⁴ Therefore the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had the craving. ³⁵ From Kibroth-hattaavah the people journeyed to Hazeroth, and they remained at Hazeroth.

- The abundance of quail is the LORD's **answer to the people's plea for meat. But this answer to prayer also serves as judgment.** Why was the anger of the LORD kindled against the people? (Note: *Kibroth-hattaavah* means "**Graves of Craving**".)
- Take time to pray together. Read this week's *Words of Encouragement* from [1 Corinthians 1:9-18](#) as a guide to prayer. Repent of complaining and idolatry. Instead, bless and worship the LORD. Thank Him for the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus has taken the judgment due to complaining idolaters, has atoned for all of our sin, and has set us free to trust and follow Him.

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 11:4-35](#).

- "Example is important, sin is contagious, memory is selective, diet is preoccupying." (Raymond Brown)
- The Rabble: Outsiders who had not fully taken on the faith of the people of God
- The People: How quickly they complain
- The Prophet: Moses refers to himself more than 20 times
- God's Response: Elders, Quail & Judgment
- A word about the names of these places
- The Idolatry of Self: Its Consequences & its Remedy
- And yet there was another day: "From Kibroth-hattaavah the people journeyed" (35)