

Weekly Lesson Theme: Mentoring: Investing in Others

Lesson Scriptures: Numbers 27:12-23

Key Lesson Theme: "Moses & Joshua"

Today's Lesson: Monday, June 5

Podcast Version: [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

Numbers 27:12-23

12 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go up this mountain of the Abarim range and see the land that I have given the Israelites.

13 After you have seen it, you will also be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was.

14 When the community quarreled in the Wilderness of Zin, both of you rebelled against my command to demonstrate my holiness in their sight at the waters." Those were the Waters of Meribah-kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin.

15 So Moses appealed to the Lord,

16 "May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all, appoint a man over the community

17 who will go out before them and come back in before them, and who will bring them out and bring them in, so that the Lord's community won't be like sheep without a shepherd."

18 The Lord replied to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him.

19 Have him stand before the priest Eleazar and the whole community, and commission him in their sight.

20 Confer some of your authority on him so that the entire Israelite community will obey him.

21 He will stand before the priest Eleazar who will consult the Lord for him with the decision of the Urim. He and all the Israelites with him, even the entire community, will go out and come back in at his command.”

22 Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua, had him stand before the priest Eleazar and the entire community,

23 laid his hands on him, and commissioned him, as the Lord had spoken through Moses.

The Bible Meets Life

Training up the next generation comes naturally to parents and those with young children. Many people have grown into adults having learned good life skills from their parents, but they lack the guidance to follow Christ well. While pastors, church leaders, and Bible study leaders can play a key role in discipleship, every believer has a role to play in guiding someone younger to grow spiritually.

The Setting

The Book of Numbers derives its name from the “numbering” or census lists that comprise chapters 1 and 26. The Hebrew title of the book translates as “in the Desert” (1:1). The book presents an account of Israel’s forty-year wandering in the desert wilderness. While the book is independent it also supplements some of the accounts of the exodus and the journey toward the land of promise found in Exodus and Deuteronomy. A major point of the book is that God judged His people for their rebellion against Him but He reaffirms His plan to bring them into the Promised Land as a people in covenant relationship with Him. God has always been a God of grace.

The principle of co-leadership had been established in Israel since the nation’s time in Sinai, so when Moses adopted the suggestion of Jethro, his father-in-law and the priest of Midian, and enlisted capable people to assist in the administration of justice in settling disputes it was not a new idea (Ex. 18:13-27). The passage for this session focuses on another shift in leadership, concluding the tenure of Moses and beginning the tenure of Joshua as the primary leader of the people.

Transitional times are critical in most any organization. They may represent a fresh start, but they also can be an uncomfortable time, especially if new

leadership also means new ways of doing things. Israel would face these challenges in its leadership change. "Preparing for a new life in a new land required stable transition between changing leadership roles, together with the effort to maintain as leader one whose response to the Lord had been exemplary." [1](#) Such is the story in the account in Numbers 27:12-23 of the naming of a successor to Moses. Identifying who that leader would be early on would allow Moses to serve as a valued mentor to the one who would come after him—Joshua, the son of Nun.

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday