

Numbers 20:1-13



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

The text – Numbers 20:1-13

1. Read Numbers 20:1-13. This is the first month – most likely meaning the first month of the 40th year since the people left Egypt. Miriam dies. Who is Miriam? Discuss what you know about Miriam.
2. The people gather to quarrel or argue with Moses and Aaron. What is their main complaint?
3. What is the Tent of Meeting? What does the LORD tell Moses and Aaron to do?
4. In Numbers 20:9-11, Moses and Aaron meet at the rock with the people. What does Moses say and do that causes God to be displeased with him?
5. In Numbers 20:12-13, the word “holy” is used twice. What does it mean that God is holy? How did Moses dishonour God and not acknowledge God’s holiness?

The Scriptures – Numbers 20:1-13 as a portion of the Scriptures

6. Kadesh is a place where Israel has previously failed. The spies, sent out by Moses to explore the Promised Land, gave their report to the people of Israel at Kadesh in Numbers 13:26-33. Read and discuss that passage. (As a result the people of Israel rebelled against God. The wilderness wanderings, a period of some 40 years in which a generation passed away, resulted.)
7. Kadesh is a place of failure. It is also a holy place. The name “Kadesh” is closely related to the Hebrew word for “holy” or “to be made holy”. What does it mean that God is “holy”? What does it mean for humans to be made holy?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. Discuss this passage in relationship with Numbers 20:1-13. What important points does Paul make to the Corinthian church in this passage?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Numbers 20:1-13 as a portion of the Scriptures

9. God is calling people to be holy? What does that mean in your life? What are some areas in your life in which you need or long to be holy?
10. How can we pray for you and support you in your discipleship in response to this study?