



## Week Two Devotions

Provided by the Ministry and Program Staff of  
The Presbyterian Church of Stanley

### Day 8

#### Scripture: Leviticus 1:1-Leviticus 14:32

You've been reading the Bible for a week now. Genesis and Exodus are filled with exciting stories of God's power and might, intrigue, betrayal and drama.

Leviticus teaches about the law. Someone once said to me, 'Leviticus is where efforts to read the Bible straight through go to die.' Let me encourage you. The law is important. We cannot understand God without understanding His law—even the law which we have a hard time applying to our daily life. When I read these chapters in Leviticus and I see the amazing lengths commanded to make reparation and sacrifice for sin, I understand more fully Christ's sacrifice for me. How great must my sin be and how great is my need for a Savior if the Hebrew law went to this great length to atone for sin!

As I am reading these passages two other verses come to mind.

"Christ...offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins" (Hebrews 10:12)

"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

~Eric Laverentz, Senior Pastor

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### Day 9

#### Scripture: Leviticus 14:33-Leviticus 26:26

"Redemption"

We must rely upon God for redemption and trust in him alone. In Leviticus 14:35, there is a great line that reads, "There seems to be some sort of [dis-ease] in my house." After that the owners of the home are commanded to clear the house of everything and rely upon God to clean the house, lest the dis-ease sinks in and destroys the entire home.

Dis-ease reigns in many homes today. Instead of clearing out our homes and relying upon God to cleanse us, we are either ignoring the problem or accumulating more things and perpetuating our dis-ease. God is pleading with us to empty our lives of all that is not of Him and cling to Him as he becomes the sacrificial lamb (Leviticus 16). He offers atonement or 'at-one-ment' with Him through the death and resurrection of His only son, Jesus Christ. It is through our acceptance of this atoning sacrifice that our homes will be safe and we are at peace.

Bo Burgener, Associate Pastor for Mission & Evangelism

### Day 10

#### Scripture: Leviticus 26:27-Numbers 8:14

*Numbers 1:1-3 The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, 2 "Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head. 3 From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel who are able to go to war, you and Aaron shall list them, company by company.*

The book of numbers begins and ends with God requiring a census of the people. "The two censuses (chs. 1-4, 26) are key to understanding the structure of the book. The first census (chs. 1-4) concerns the first generation of the Exodus community; the second census (ch. 26) focuses on the experiences of the second generation, the people for whom this book is primarily directed. The first generation of the redeemed were prepared for triumph but ended in disaster. The second generation has an opportunity for greatness-if only they will learn from the failures of their fathers and mothers the absolute necessity for robust faithfulness to the Lord despite all obstacles." We all have obstacles to our faith everyday. But spiritual growth occurs when we follow God's ways even when it's hard, even when we don't understand why or what's happening in our life. The promise of God is that he remains with us through everything we experience just like he remained with Israel as they traveled through the wilderness to a better place, a promised land.

Molly Jones, Pastor for Discipleship

## Day 11

### Scripture: Numbers 8:15-Numbers 21:7

These chapters of Numbers do a recounting of the journey of the Hebrew people in the wilderness. God's presence is made known to them in a "pillar of cloud." Jewish rabbis coined a term for this cloud called the "Shekinah glory". "Shekinah is a form of a Hebrew word that means literally "he caused to dwell." The pillar of cloud settled over the tabernacle. When the cloud moved, the people were to follow. When the cloud stopped, the people were to stop. The cloud was a visible presence of God's presence with the people.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ is the dwelling place of God's glory. In Christ we see the visible manifestation of God Himself in the second person of the Trinity. Just as the Hebrew people showed their obedience to God by following the pillar of cloud, we show our obedience to God by following Jesus Christ.

Jan Zimmerman, Children's Ministries Director

## Day 12

### Scripture: Numbers 21:8-Numbers 32:19

What a difference it would make....

The challenge of these verses is that most of us don't do what Balaam did within his life. How often do we just react within any given situation? How often do we react according to what our will wants?

How often do we seek what maybe God wants? What if we stopped and breathed in the Holy Spirit, and asked God help me here. I understand that this challenging, but what a difference this could make in our daily decisions and interactions.

Balaam within his interactions said he " I will speak only the message that the Lord puts in my mouth.' And " Didn't I tell you that I can only do what the Lord tells me?" Maybe we would be silent more and be less hurried. Maybe we would be less hurtful to ourselves and to others. Maybe our actions would look a little different. I understand that this is difficult, but maybe our life compass would be a little more pointed toward the Cross. Harlan Harper 2009

Harlan Harper, Youth Ministries Director

## Day 13

### Scripture: Numbers 32:20-Deuteronomy 7:26

The section of text in the first chapter of Deuteronomy deals with Israel's failure at Kadesh-barnea to enter the Holy Land, its causes and its consequences. God's words were, "Go up, take possession, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has told you. Do not fear or be dismayed." Yet Israel was fearful and they refused to enter the land that the Lord had promised to them.

The Hebrew word translated "take possession" (v. 21), referring to the Promised Land, occurs over 50 times in Deuteronomy. God's great desire for His people had been that they possess what He had promised them. Unfortunately, the older generation would not because of fearful unbelief. The sending of the spies was the people's idea (v. 22; cf. Num. 13:1-3). Moses agreed to it, as did the Lord, because it was not wrong in itself. It had the potential of being helpful to the Israelites. Nevertheless God had not commanded this strategy. He knew that the sight of the threatening people and fortified cities (v. 28) would discourage them. The people's sin in failing to enter the land was not just underestimating God's power. They could have blamed themselves for their weak faith. Instead they blamed God and imputed to Him the worst of motives toward them. God loved them, but they claimed He hated them (v. 27). In covenant terminology to love means to choose, and to hate means to reject (cf. Gen. 25:23; Mal. 1:2-3; Rom. 9:10-13). The Israelites doubted God's goodness, denied His word, and disobeyed His will (cf. Gen. 3).

Molly Jones, Associate Pastor for Discipleship

## Day 14

### Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:1-Deuteronomy 23:11

The theme of Deuteronomy seems to be "Remember." Remember where you came from...Remember what happened to you...Remember what you have received.

It reminds the Israelites that God keeps his promises, that everything belongs to God, and to obey His commands. It's hard for me to understand how these people who wandered in the desert for 40 years, were taken care of every step of the way, can still be rebellious to God! If they couldn't get it right, after actually witnessing God in action first-hand, how can I so many years later, get it right? Without God's help, I can't!

I remember that some of this passage was used in the Crown Biblical Financial Study. We learned in that study that God owns everything, and that we are responsible to take care of others who might not have as much as we do. We also learned that God sometimes molds our character by allowing us to experience difficult circumstances. He let the children of Israel wander in the desert for 40 years to help teach them that He would take care of them and that He is in control.

I think the best part of this passage is the proof that God fulfills his promises—always! Even though the children of Israel were rebellious, He *wanted* them to get to the Promised Land. He gave them chance after chance and forgave them again and again. Moses interceded for them, just as Jesus does for us today.

What does He have in store for me—if only I listen and allow Him to take control of my life?

Debbie Miller, Finance/Stewardship Director

