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## Numbers: Let's Talk

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This Grace@Home Let's Talk Guide provides discussion questions and activities that you may use to facilitate conversations about God and His Word in your home. The focus is on those chapters that are most likely to promote meaningful conversations for all ages of family members.

### Numbers 6

Play a game of charades trying to guess the names of famous people your family would recognize. Talk about how trustworthy they are. How do your feelings change between one person that you know you can count on and another person you are pretty sure they are going to say one thing but do another?

Questions:

1. What are three conditions of the vow of a Nazirite?
2. Why would someone take the vow of a Nazirite? How could refraining from grapes and scissors help a person keep a vow?
3. Have you ever made a vow or promise to someone? To God? Discuss what it was and how you fulfilled the promise. Are you trustworthy toward God?
4. If you had to "Tweet" someone about this chapter, what would you tell them?

### Numbers 11

Read Numbers 11 together as a family and act out (might be a good time to bring out your stuffed angry birds!). While reading verses 4-6 and 11-15, use your best whiney voice. You could also use a big pile of change or dried beans to count out "70 elders" from the pile.

Questions:

1. What did the Israelites complain about in verses four through six? Can you remember any of the miracles that God had done for them starting with the first plague? How could they have forgotten?
2. What did Moses complain about in verses 11-15? If you were Moses do you think you would have acted any different? Explain why.
3. When is the last time you complained about something? To whom did you complain? Is it sometimes easy to forget all the good God does for you and just focus on the current complaint? How could you choose differently?
4. How were the 70 elders supposed to help Moses? Do you have anyone in your life that helps you with your responsibilities? If so who and how do they help?

## Numbers 13

Today we are reading the story of the 12 men who spied out the Promised Land. Play a game of "I Spy" and then act out this story with your family members. Pretend you are spies and describe what you see to each other.

Questions:

1. What was the mission of these 12 spies?
2. What report did the spies give when they returned 40 days later? Which spy had a differing opinion? What did he suggest?
3. Do you think the God that had been performing many miracles for the Israelites could take care of this problem, too? Why do the Israelites keep failing to trust God?
4. Have you ever been in a situation or been around people by whom you were intimidated? What would it take for you to see the circumstances like Caleb did rather than the spies' perspective?

## Numbers 17

Read Numbers 17 and make chocolate covered pretzel rods to celebrate Aaron's rod that budded. Melt chocolate and dip the pretzels in it. Then have some flower sprinkles to put on the end. Share as a family!

Questions:

1. Whose name was written on the rod of Levi?
2. Where did Moses place the rods from each tribe? Why do you think Aaron's rod budded?
3. What caused Moses to gather the 12 rods? Is there a recurring weakness or complaint that keeps cycling back in your life? What can you do to break this cycle?
4. Is there a leader in your life that you have trouble submitting to but you know God wants you to? If so, stop and pray that you could ultimately submit to God by following this leader God has allowed in your life.

## Numbers 20

As a family, go outside in the yard or in a park and see how many rocks you can count in three minutes. Then read Numbers 20 and guess how this activity is related.

Questions:

1. What were the Israelites complaining about this time? How would you have felt if you were Moses?
2. What did the Lord command Moses and Aaron to do? What did Moses actually do?
3. What sin did Moses commit? (Doctrinally Jesus is our Rock who was stricken once for us [Exo 17:6] but henceforth we can come and speak to Him and He will give us living water [Num 20].)
4. What does this teach us concerning God's perspective of following His detailed instructions?

## Numbers 22

Can you imagine what it would be like to be able to talk with an animal or hear them say something? Watch this video of Dr. Doolittle: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKE1aYvqHLM>

Then read Numbers 22 which was an actual event – not a fairy tale!

Questions:

1. What happened between verses 10 and 21 that showed Balaam's first mistake?
2. Why did Balaam hit the donkey? Who opened the mouth of the donkey? How do you think you would have responded if a donkey talked to you?
3. Why do you think God chose to make a donkey talk? How does this scene show God's mercy?
4. If God used a talking donkey to accomplish His purpose should you ever doubt God's ability to use you? Pray that God would use your words in someone else's life this week.

## Numbers 28

Pick a recipe with a list of ingredients and make it together. How important is it to follow the directions? What happens if you forget an ingredient? Numbers has many directions to follow but each one has a purpose. The keys to these Old Testament illustrations are often found in the New Testament.

Questions:

1. List some of the directions for the sacrifices. Which one seems most confusing or strange to you?
2. Why would God ask people to sacrifice innocent animals? (Read Hebrews 10:1-4) How did this remind them of their sin?
3. The blood of animals didn't actually cleanse people from sins but was a picture foretelling of the ultimate sacrifice when Jesus gave Himself for us (Hebrews 9:11-15, 28). Have you ever pictured a heavenly tabernacle where Jesus offered Himself for you?
4. On three separate occasions in this chapter God says to meet together and do what? How does that help our relationship with God and each other? Do you do this regularly and if so how do you benefit?

## Numbers 31

Play a game of Follow the Leader, Simon Says, Knock-out basketball or similar game of your choice. Is it important to follow the rules? Why? Talk about what each family member does to follow God. Then read how the Israelites followed God's instructions.

Questions:

1. To whom did the Lord speak?
2. How many people did God send to war against the Midianites?
3. What blessing did Israel see from following God's command to war? How might we be blessed by obeying God and doing something hard?
4. Why do you think God spent the time to write down all these details? What do you think He might be trying to tell us?