

Investigating

God's Word...

At Home

Volume 4

**Numbers,
Deuteronomy,
Mark**

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Deuteronomy,
Mark**

One Story Ministries

Investigating God's Word: At Home (Volume Four)

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Dedicated to my children:

*Victoria, Alexandra, Emmalyne, Olivia
Katherine, John Charles, Nathanael, Andrew*

Using this Teaching Guide

This series of volumes was created to help parents teach the Bible to their children at home. It's a highly interactive study which seeks to promote thought, discussion, and application as you read through the Bible together. By the time you finish all fourteen volumes, your family will investigate the entirety of God's Word.

Each individual lesson is divided up into the following five sections:

Opening

The *Opening* gets the lesson moving with either introductory thought questions, or a reading from the Psalms or Proverbs. This section serves as a "Call to Study."

Drill Time

The *Drill Time* section is an opportunity for you to quiz your children to assess their Bible knowledge. Sometimes the questions will be a review of the previous lesson. Other times the questions will cover essential Bible knowledge that all of our children should learn. Still other times the questions will be from another portion of Scripture which connects to the lesson to be studied.

W.O.W!

The *Word of the Week (W.O.W!)* is designed to build the Christian vocabularies of your children. Each lesson includes a *W.O.W!* that is either a word found in the Bible text or a theological word that is dealt with in the passage. Often times, the *W.O.W!* is found repeatedly in the chosen text, serving as a theme for the lesson. The *Word of the Week* is defined and explained in this section in order for



your children to gain understanding. They will be asked to listen for it in the *Bible Investigation* time.

Bible Investigation

The *Bible Investigation* time is the heart and soul of the lesson. Each passage of Scripture is read to your children a portion at a time, breaking it down for interactive discussion. The discussion sections include questions for your children to answer as well as other commentary on what has just been read. Application sections also appear throughout the *Bible Investigation* in order to put to work what is being studied.

The *Bible Investigation* time is also intended to teach your children how to do methodical Bible study. You will be helping them to observe, interpret, think through, and apply the Scripture.

All sections of Scripture in these volumes are from the *New International Version (NIV)*.

Scripture Memory

At the end of each lesson, a *Scripture Memory text* is given that either comes from the lesson or connects to it in some way. Encourage your children to memorize Scripture each week to commit God's Word to their hearts.

**Enjoy studying God's Word
together as a family!**



Table of Contents

Using this Teaching Guide	6
Lesson 1 Numbers 1-4	10
Lesson 2 Numbers 5-9	18
Lesson 3 Numbers 10-12	26
Lesson 4 Numbers 13-14	34
Lesson 5 Numbers 15-18	43
Lesson 6 Numbers 19-21	52
Lesson 7 Numbers 22-24	61
Lesson 8 Numbers 25-30	70
Lesson 9 Numbers 31-36	78
Lesson 10 Deuteronomy 1-8	86
Lesson 11 Deuteronomy 9-18	95
Lesson 12 Deuteronomy 19-28	103



Lesson 13	Deuteronomy 29-34	112
Lesson 14	Mark 1	121
Lesson 15	Mark 2:1-3:12	129
Lesson 16	Mark 3:13-4:34	137
Lesson 17	Mark 4:35-5:43	145
Lesson 18	Mark 6	154
Lesson 19	Mark 7	163
Lesson 20	Mark 8	171
Lesson 21	Mark 9	179
Lesson 22	Mark 10	188
Lesson 23	Mark 11:1-12:17	197
Lesson 24	Mark 12:18-13:37	206
Lesson 25	Mark 14	215
Lesson 26	Mark 15-16	225





Lesson 1

Numbers 1-4

Opening

Choose volunteers to answer the following questions:
Who can count to twenty for me? Who can count by tens all the way to one hundred? Who can count by one hundreds all the way to one thousand?

Numbers are so important to us, aren't they? We have to count things all the time. In all areas of life, we keep records of numbers so we can organize information better. But did you know that God is interested in certain numbers too? We'll read about some of those numbers today!

Drill Time

Now, let's move on to DRILL TIME. This is our regular opportunity to review what we have learned in the past.

Today's questions: *What are the names of the first five books of the Bible? Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who wrote these first five books? What is another name for all of these Books of Moses (as a group)?*

Answers:

1. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
2. Moses.
3. The Pentateuch.



Say: *So far, we have studied the Book of Genesis, the Book of Exodus, and the Book of Leviticus. Now, we will begin a study of the fourth and fifth books of the Bible. First, we will investigate the Book of Numbers. That’s an interesting name for a Bible book, isn’t it? A book called “Numbers” is probably all about numbers and counting, wouldn’t you think? We will find out—but now it’s time for our Word of the Week!*

W.O.W!

*Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) is **CENSUS**. Has anyone heard of this word before?*

A CENSUS is a count of all the people in a particular city, state, or country. For example, the United States takes a full CENSUS every ten years. It counts every person who lives in the United States. So a CENSUS helps us to know how many people are living in our country!

Nations have been taking CENSUSES from the very beginning. A CENSUS not only counts up the people and families in a country, it also tells the leaders of the nation things about the people. For instance, our CENSUS tells the government how many people own televisions or cars, how many people live in each house, etc.

Watch for our Word of the Week in our reading today. A very important CENSUS will be taken. It will produce some big numbers that God wants counted. This CENSUS was actually commanded by God!



Bible Investigation

Introduction: *Now we begin studying the fourth book of the Bible, the Book of Numbers. It continues our study of the Israelites after God delivers them from Egypt.*

Let's begin reading. Read Numbers 1:1-4.

¹The LORD spoke to Moses in the Tent of Meeting in the Desert of Sinai on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites came out of Egypt. He said: ²“Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one. ³You and Aaron are to number by their divisions all the men in Israel twenty years old or more who are able to serve in the army. ⁴One man from each tribe, each the head of his family, is to help you.

Discussion: *Did you hear our Word of the Week? Who did God tell Moses to take a CENSUS of? [The entire Israelite community.] Why were Moses and Aaron also supposed to count all of the men who were twenty years or older? [So these men could serve in the army.] This was such a big job that God gave Moses helpers from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. All this took place during the second year of the exodus from Egypt.*

Let's drop down to verse 17. Read verses 17-19.

¹⁷Moses and Aaron took these men whose names had been given, ¹⁸and they called the whole community together on the first day of the second month. The people indicated their ancestry by their clans and families, and the men twenty years old or more were listed by name, one by one, ¹⁹as the LORD commanded Moses. And so he counted them in the Desert of Sinai:



Discussion: *Did Moses obey the LORD? [Yes!] He took a CENSUS of the Israelites and counted all the men over twenty who could fight in the army.*

Listen to how many men were in the army.

Read verses 44-47.

⁴⁴ These were the men counted by Moses and Aaron and the twelve leaders of Israel, each one representing his family. ⁴⁵ All the Israelites twenty years old or more who were able to serve in Israel's army were counted according to their families. ⁴⁶ The total number was 603,550. ⁴⁷ The families of the tribe of Levi, however, were not counted along with the others.

Discussion: *That's a BIG number, isn't it? Over six hundred thousand men could fight in the army. So why weren't the men in the tribe of Levi counted? Do you remember?*

Listen. Read verses 48-50.

⁴⁸ The LORD had said to Moses: ⁴⁹“You must not count the tribe of Levi or include them in the census of the other Israelites. ⁵⁰ Instead, appoint the Levites to be in charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony—over all its furnishings and everything belonging to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings; they are to take care of it and encamp around it.

Discussion: *Now do you remember? The Levites had a very special job. They had to take care of the tabernacle, the tent of meeting with God. We will read more about the Levites later on. The CENSUS is now complete.*

Let's move on to Chapter Two.



Read Numbers 2:1-2.

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: ²“The Israelites are to camp around the Tent of Meeting some distance from it, each man under his standard with the banners of his family.”

Discussion: *Now the LORD tells Moses and Aaron how the Israelites are to camp while they are in the wilderness. God is a God of order! He has a place for each tribe to pitch their tents—with the tabernacle in the center.*

Listen. **Read verse 17.**

¹⁷ Then the Tent of Meeting and the camp of the Levites will set out in the middle of the camps. They will set out in the same order as they encamp, each in his own place under his standard.

Summary: *All of Chapter Two describes where each tribe and clan will live. They will all live centered on the tent of meeting. They would encamp that way all the years of the wilderness wanderings.*

Application: *Boys and girls, this camping procedure is a picture of how our lives should be as Christians. Jesus Christ must be at the very center of our lives. Our families are to have Jesus as the center of our homes. Our eyes should always be on Jesus, as we look to love Him and serve Him more. Just as the Israelites were to have the worship of God in the middle of camp, we too must make the worship of God our first priority!*

Let's move to Numbers 3. **Read Numbers 3:1-4.**

¹ This is the account of the family of Aaron and Moses at the time the LORD talked with Moses on Mount Sinai. ² The names of the sons of Aaron were Nadab the firstborn and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. ³ Those were the names of Aaron's sons, the anointed priests, who were ordained to serve as priests. ⁴ Nadab and Abihu, however, fell dead before



the LORD when they made an offering with unauthorized fire before him in the Desert of Sinai. They had no sons; so only Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests during the lifetime of their father Aaron.

Discussion: *This is a short review of what we read in Exodus and Leviticus. God chose Aaron and his family as priests. Do you remember Nadab and Abihu? They rebelled against God and were punished by death. Now Eleazar and Ithamar, two other sons, served with Aaron as priests.*

Let's keep reading. Read verses 5-9.

⁵The LORD said to Moses, ⁶“Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him. ⁷They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the Tent of Meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle. ⁸They are to take care of all the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting, fulfilling the obligations of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle. ⁹Give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to him.

Discussion: *Now we are reminded again that the tribe of Levi was given to Aaron to assist him. The Levites had the important job of taking care of the tabernacle. They led the people in the worship of God. So in the CENSUS, the Levites were counted as special ministers of the tabernacle.*

Listen to more counting. Read verses 14-16.

¹⁴The LORD said to Moses in the Desert of Sinai, ¹⁵“Count the Levites by their families and clans. Count every male a month old or more.” ¹⁶So Moses counted them, as he was commanded by the word of the LORD.

Summary: *The Levites were broken into three smaller clans—the Gershonites, the Kohathites and the Merarites. Each of these smaller groups of families had more specific jobs to do for the LORD's tabernacle. The Gershonites were*



in charge of the big tents, the Kohathites were in charge of all the furniture and the sanctuary, and the Merarites were in charge of all of the heavy wood and posts and ropes that held together the tabernacle. Everyone had a special job!

Application: *God has a special job for all of His children, including you! One day, you will find out what gifts God has given you so you can work for Him!*

Let's go on to Numbers 4. Read Numbers 4:1-4.

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: ²“Take a census of the Kohathite branch of the Levites by their clans and families. ³ Count all the men from thirty to fifty years of age who come to serve in the work in the Tent of Meeting. ⁴“This is the work of the Kohathites in the Tent of Meeting: the care of the most holy things.

Discussion: *Now Moses and Aaron have to take a special CENSUS of one branch of Levites, the Kohathites. Did you hear their special job? They were in charge of the MOST HOLY THINGS. Wow! How would you like that job? They cared for the holiest objects in the tabernacle. The rest of Chapter Four describes how they are to give special care to these holy items.*

Let's read more. Read verses 17-20.

¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ¹⁸“See that the Kohathite tribal clans are not cut off from the Levites. ¹⁹ So that they may live and not die when they come near the most holy things, do this for them: Aaron and his sons are to go into the sanctuary and assign to each man his work and what he is to carry. ²⁰ But the Kohathites must not go in to look at the holy things, even for a moment, or they will die.”

Discussion: *Even though the Kohathites were in charge of the most holy items, they could not look at them! They were to be covered up without gazing upon them. Why? Because*



our God is HOLY and we are not. We are to bow down to God's holiness!

*Let's finish our reading for today. **Read verses 46-49.***

⁴⁶So Moses, Aaron and the leaders of Israel counted all the Levites by their clans and families. ⁴⁷All the men from thirty to fifty years of age who came to do the work of serving and carrying the Tent of Meeting ⁴⁸numbered 8,580. ⁴⁹At the LORD's command through Moses, each was assigned his work and told what to carry. Thus they were counted, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Conclusion: *So all the Levites were counted and assigned special jobs for God. Do you see why all of this counting was so important? Each person was given a job and each person was given a place to live around the tabernacle. Do you want to be counted as one of God's children? I hope you do! When God counts you as one of His own, He gives you a place in His kingdom and a job to do. Isn't that great?*

Scripture Memory

Psalm 84:10b (NIV)

¹⁰ ...I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.





Lesson 2

Numbers 5-9

Opening

Ask: *Who's in charge when you're at school? [The teacher.] Who's in charge of your home? [Mom and Dad.] Who's in charge of our country? [The President, the Congress.] So who's in charge of all of the people who are in charge? [God is!]*

The truth is that God is in charge of the entire universe. He has created the world, so He sets the rules for how it should run. He has created you and me, so we must obey Him. So where do we learn how to love and obey our God who is in charge? [In the Bible.] Let's study it and learn more about our great God!

Drill Time

First, let's get ready for DRILL TIME. This is our regular opportunity to review what we have learned in the past.

Today's questions: *What is a census? Who did God command to do a census of Israel? Why did God want a census of all males over twenty years old? What tribe did not have to serve in the army? What were the Levites counted on to do?*

Answers:

1. A numbering of a population.



2. Moses and Aaron.
3. To number those who could serve in the military.
4. The Levites.
5. To take care of the tabernacle.

Say: *Remember that the various clans of the Levites were called to do specific jobs in caring for the tabernacle. Where was the tabernacle to be set up every time the Israelites camped? [In the middle of the camp.] God's presence was always to be in the center of their lives—just as He is to be for you and me. We all want to be counted in God's CENSUS, don't we?*

W.O.W!

*Today's word is **DEDICATE**. This is an important word that you will learn through the years. Can anyone tell me what it means to DEDICATE something? **Allow answers.***

To DEDICATE something is to set it aside for special use. We have already learned that the Levites were set aside or DEDICATED as servants of the LORD's tabernacle. We have also learned that certain pieces of furniture were DEDICATED as holy to the LORD in the tabernacle.

But did you know that you can DEDICATE your life to someone else? Husbands and wives DEDICATE their lives to each other, committing to loving only each other with a special kind of love. Christians DEDICATE themselves to God, committing to following only God rather than false gods. My prayer is that you would DEDICATE your life to Jesus one day!

Listen for our Word of the Week as we study God's Word today!



Bible Investigation

Introduction: *The Israelites have all been counted by Moses and Aaron in the second year since they have been delivered from Egypt. These next chapters will review some of the things we learned in the Book of Leviticus. God gives His people His presence as well as His commands so they can live in His love.*

Let's begin our reading. **Read Numbers 5:1-4.**

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“Command the Israelites to send away from the camp anyone who has an infectious skin disease or a discharge of any kind, or who is ceremonially unclean because of a dead body. ³Send away male and female alike; send them outside the camp so they will not defile their camp, where I dwell among them.” ⁴The Israelites did this; they sent them outside the camp. They did just as the LORD had instructed Moses.

Discussion: *This command may seem mean to you, but we must see God's grace and holiness here. God is holy, so no unclean person or thing can live with Him. Those who were unclean from diseases would spread those diseases to others, so God was being gracious to His people too. Remember that God makes the rules. He is the one who says how things must be!*

Application: *Since you and I are made unclean by our sin, the only way we can live with God is through Jesus Christ. Jesus cleanses the unrighteousness of all who put their faith in Him!*

Let's read on. **Read verses 5-7.**

⁵The LORD said to Moses, ⁶“Say to the Israelites: ‘When a man or woman wrongs another in any way and so is unfaithful to the LORD, that person is guilty ⁷and must confess the sin he has committed. He must make full

