

Investigating

God's Word...

YEAR TWO

**Numbers,
Deuteronomy**

Sunday School Curriculum

Spring Quarter

Lesson Sequence

Spring Quarter

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the *Investigating God's Word...* curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	Numbers 1-4
Week Two	Numbers 5-9
Week Three	Numbers 10-12
Week Four	Numbers 13-14
Week Five	Numbers 15-18
Week Six	Numbers 19-21
Week Seven	Numbers 22-24
Week Eight	Numbers 25-30
Week Nine	Numbers 31-36
Week Ten	Deuteronomy 1-8
Week Eleven	Deuteronomy 9-18
Week Twelve	Deuteronomy 19-28
Week Thirteen	Deuteronomy 29-34

Summer Quarter: Mark



Suggested Schedule

Welcome <i>Fun with numbers</i>	2-3 min.
Drill Time <i>The Pentateuch</i>	5 min.
W.O.W! <i>Census</i>	5 min.
Historical Context <i>Timeline</i>	2-3 min.
Bible Investigation <i>Numbers 1-4</i>	20-30 min.
Lesson-At-Home <i>Psalms 84:10b</i>	2-3 min.

Lesson One

Numbers 1-4

Overview

The Book of Numbers describes events that occurred as Israel wandered in the wilderness after being delivered by God from Egypt. Numbers opens with God commanding Moses and Aaron to take a census of all Israel, including a special census of all males twenty years or older (for army enlistment). Moses and Aaron, and their tribal helpers, did as God commanded. Over six hundred thousand men were of military age.

Numbers 2 details how the Israelites were to be encamped all their years in the wilderness. The tabernacle was to be pitched in the center of the camp, with the various tribes surrounding it and facing it. God's presence was to be the center of Israelite life!

Numbers 3-4 describe the census of the Levites and the special tasks that each branch of the Levites was given. The Gershonites were to take care of the tent and its coverings. The Kohathites were responsible for the furniture of the sanctuary. The Merarites did the heavy lifting of the poles, bases, and other wood of the tent. Numbers 4 goes into even more detail about the work of the Kohathites. They handled the most holy items of the tabernacle.

Preparation

Read and meditate on Numbers 1-4 this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

Teaching Encouragement

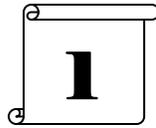
As you prepare to teach this lesson to your students, pray for each one of them by name. Pray that they will each be counted as one of God's elect children! Being counted as one of God's own means that they will spend eternity with the LORD. Being counted in God's census means being given a place within the family of God. Being counted as God's child includes being called to do a special job in God's kingdom. So as you pray for and then teach your covenant children, meditate on the amazing grace of being numbered as one of the people of God. Share the joy of having a life that "counts" for God. While being a member of a census count in our own country has its potential benefits, it doesn't compare with being put on the rolls of God's kingdom!

The **Welcome** serves as both an opportunity to greet the children as well as an effort to help them get focused on God's Word.

Each week, you will begin with questions or an activity that will engage the children to help them think about God.

Drill Time gives the children the opportunity to recall and rehearse what they have been taught in the past—at home, school and/or church.

This element allows the **Investigating God's Word...** curriculum to cover much more Biblical "ground," since time is not expended repeating the same Bible stories over and over again from year to year.



Welcome

Greet the students. Welcome visitors.

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 weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past.

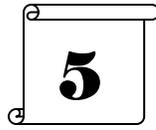
Today's questions: *What are the names of the first five books of the Bible? Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who wrote these first five books? What is another name for all of these Books of Moses (as a group)?*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

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. This quarter, we will study 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!*



Bible Investigation

The **Bible Investigation** time is the heart and soul of the lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story.

All Scripture texts included in the curriculum are from the New International Version (NIV).

The Bible reading is taken in short sections, separated by times of **discussion, questions, and application points.**

This format allows ample opportunities to stop, think about and discuss what is being read.

Have the students seated where they can all see the board.

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.

⁴⁴These were the men counted by Moses and Aaron and the twelve leaders of Israel, each one representing his family. ⁴⁵All the Israelites twenty years old or more who were able to serve in Israel's army were counted according to their families. ⁴⁶The total

The grey sidebar found on all pages is for the teacher to write notes as he or she prepares the lesson.

Other teaching tips or important exegetical information will also appear on the sidebar.

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.

⁴⁸The 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.

¹The 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.

¹⁷Then 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!*

Application Points are woven into the fabric of the discussion, rather than being left to the end of the lesson.

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

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

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: ²“Take a census of the Kohathite branch of the Levites by their clans and families. ³Count 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.

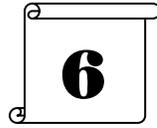
¹⁷The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ¹⁸“See that the Kohathite tribal clans are not cut off from the Levites. ¹⁹So that they may live and not die when they come near the most holy things, do this for them: Aaron and his sons are to go into the sanctuary and assign to each man his work and what he is to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



Lesson-At-Home

The **Lesson-At-Home** section is the closing time each week. Bookmarks are given to the students that include the Scripture memory verse and a lesson review. The lesson review contains words and phrases that can spark memories as well as conversation with parents.

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Psalm 84:10b) together.

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.

Say: *This is a verse from the Psalms that makes me think about what we read about today. The Psalmist would take any job in the kingdom of God—even a doorkeeper—instead of being with the wicked in their tents. The Israelites were given places to live and jobs to do as God’s chosen people. I hope you will one day feel like the Psalmist and long to be living in the household of God!*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.