



GOD'S DISCIPLINE

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES—FORGOTTEN!

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

It is important for your students to understand and remember truths concerning what God did for His chosen people, the Israelites. This lesson, therefore, reviews the past. Create an atmosphere of thanksgiving to the Lord as you review. One year elapsed from the time the people of Israel left Egypt until they set up the tabernacle at Mount Sinai (Exodus 40:17). Leviticus covers a period of one month when God instructed Israel how to worship Him. So the events in Numbers begin thirteen months after the Israelites left Egypt.

Numbers continues the history of the Israelites' journey to Canaan. Their trek was extended to a total of 40 years because of their refusal to believe God and enter the land of Canaan. The book gets its title from the census taken at the beginning and at the end. It could also be called *The*

Book of Murmurings. It records the repeated discontent and complaints of God's people. They murmured against God and their leaders, Moses and Aaron. This displeased God and He disciplined them severely.

Numbers is rich in incidents illustrating the Christian life, which is a pilgrimage in a world filled with danger and temptation. The lessons God taught the Israelites are helpful for our daily lives. (See 1 Corinthians 10:6.)

The first lesson will review the events of the previous year as recorded in Exodus and Leviticus. (See Volumes 6-12.) It is important for your students to understand the continuity of these books in the history of Israel. Only by repeated review will they retain what you teach.

Scripture to be studied: Psalms 78 and 145; review passages cited in lesson.

The aim of the lesson: To show that God wants His people to praise Him for all He has done (Psalm 107:2, 3, 8, 15).

What your students should know: Israel failed to remember God's goodness and consequently spent 38 years wandering in the wilderness.

What your students should feel: Thanksgiving and praise to God for His mercy and grace.

What your students should do: List specific instances of God's direction and blessings in their lives, beginning with their salvation. (Beware of forgetting as Israel did!)

Lesson outline for the teacher's and students' notebooks:

1. God's power (Exodus 12:12-51).
2. God's faithfulness (Psalm 78:12-29; Exodus 17:8-16).
3. God's laws (Exodus 20).
4. God's holiness (Psalm 145:3, 5).

The verse to be memorized:

And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and His anger was kindled. (Numbers 11:1a)

THE LESSON

Did you ever listen to your parents as they talked about things that happened years ago? Often God told the people of Israel that they were to remember all He had done for them. When they faced hard times in their lives, they would then be reminded to trust Him again. (See Exodus 13:3; 32:13; Deuteronomy 5:15; 7:18; 8:2; 32:7.)

Today, let us pretend we are living in the camp of the Israelites over 3,000 years ago. Come to the tent where Nun, Joshua's father, is camping with his family. Listen as they talk together. Could it have been something like this?

1. GOD'S POWER Exodus 12:12-51

"It has been 13 months since God led us out of Egypt," Nun recalled. "How wonderful it is to be free from the whips of those Egyptians! It is good to know that my children will not be slaves as I was."

Joshua exclaimed, "I shall never forget our last night in Egypt! Death wails filled the air. (Why? Let students answer.)