Eric Swanson / General

The Bible

Numbers

Author: Again, classically Moses

Date: 1405-1406 for Moses.

 Audience: Moses was writing to the second generation of Israelites' who are still in the wilderness. These were the children who were born out in the wilderness and the Hebrew title **Bemidbar** translates into "wilderness."

Reason: Moses wrote this book to show the people what not to do once they got into the promise land. This text has also served as a form of history of their time in the wilderness.

Theme: This book shows what happens when Israel wanders away from God's plan.

Key Verse: [Numbers 14:34](#)

Numbers 14:34 CEB
³⁴ For as many days as you explored the land, that is, forty days, just as many years you'll bear your guilt, that is, forty years. This is how you will understand my frustration."

Sections: Preparing the Israelites (Ch1-10), Failing Away from the plan (Ch 11-14), The Lord's Discipline (Ch 15-36)

Key Words: Wander, Wilderness, Covenant, Sin, Atonement

Basic Intro: This book covers the journey from Mt. Sinai to Kadesh and the edge of the Promised Land. This is a book about rebellion and disappointment, how the wandering wasn't a part of God's plan, but God adjusted to the people's decisions. This Book is named numbers because a census starts it off and by now 2.5 million or so people are in the stead of Moses. This book is about obedience.

Questions for Discussion:

- Have you ever failed to obey God's Plan for you? What happened? How did it feel to be outside that plan?

- Think of a time when your faith outweighed the faith of your peers. What was this like, what happened?

- Has God ever used a strange circumstance to share God's thoughts with you? What happened?

- There are two generations that are described in Numbers. One is stuck in a ritualistic mode and the other is having faith for God moving in miraculous ways. What one do you most relate to?

- What are some changes you would need to make in your life to be more like the second generation?