



In the beginning
GOD
created the heaven
and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

SENIOR HIGH BIBLE CLASS

FOR TEENS AGES 15-17

SUMMER QUARTER | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST 2026

Senior High Bible Class

SUMMER QUARTER

The Lord's Patience
with His People

UNIT 1: Slow to Anger

June 7—Moses Prays for Mercy.....	2
June 14—God Renews His Covenant.....	6
June 21—God's Mercy in History.....	10
June 28—God Grants Israel a King.....	14

UNIT 2: Faithful to His Promises

July 5—God Gathers All Nations.....	18
July 12—God Sends a Righteous Branch.....	22
July 19—God's Faithful Justice.....	26
July 26—God's Hope for Exiles.....	30
Aug. 2—God's Promised Land.....	34

UNIT 3: His Compassion Never Fails

Aug. 9—God Reconciles His People....	37
Aug. 16—The Good Shepherd.....	40
Aug. 23—God's Love for Israel.....	43
Aug. 30—God's Faithfulness to Israel....	46

LOOKING AHEAD

Welcome to the summer quarter, where we will focus on God's deep love and mercy, His trustworthiness, and His use of imperfect people.

We will examine the character of God, Moses, and the Israelites in lessons 1 and 2. Lesson 3 covers Joshua's final address to Israel, while lesson 4 discusses the Israelites' misguided request for a king.

The Lord exhorts the exiled nation of Israel to return to Him in Lesson 5. Lessons 6 and 7 focus on the godless behavior of Judah's leaders.

Lessons 8 and 9 cover how God's people lived in exile. In lesson 10, we examine the Lord's plea to the Israelites in Assyria to repent, and lesson 11 focuses on Ezekiel's prophecy against Israel's leaders.

God is a divine parent who disciplines His children, as well as the kind and caring Good Shepherd, as we will see in the final two lessons.

Vol. 95

June, July, August 2026

No. 3



LifeStone



Editor in Chief: James M. Leonard, Ph.D.

Managing Editor: Michelle Birtasevic

Writer: Jim Musser

Edited and published quarterly by

LIFESTONE MINISTRIES
UNION GOSPEL PRESS

Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

ISBN 978-1-64495-838-4

This material is part of the "Christian Life Series," copyright © 2026 by Union Gospel Press, part of the LifeStone Ministries family. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without written permission from Union Gospel Press, except as permitted by United States copyright law. Edited and published quarterly by LifeStone Ministries, Union Gospel Press. Mailing address: 2019 Medina Road, Medina, Ohio 44256. Phone: 800-638-9988. www.lifestoneministries.org

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

NUM. 14:11 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

12 I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

13 And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear *it*, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)

14 And they will tell *it* to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD *art* among this people, that thou LORD *art* seen face to face, and *that* thy cloud standeth over them, and *that* thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night.

15 Now *if* thou shalt kill *all* this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying,

16 Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he swore unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.

17 And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying,

18 The LORD *is* longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

19 Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

20 And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:

21 But *as truly as I live*, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

NOTES

PLEASE NOTE: Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of LifeStone Ministries, Union Gospel Press. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and willingness to submit to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Moses Prays for Mercy

Lesson Text: Numbers 14:11-24

Related Scriptures: Exodus 32:7-14; Joshua 2:8-11;
Ezekiel 36:16-23; Joel 2:12-17; Hebrews 3:7-19

TIME: about 1443 B.C.

PLACE: Kadesh

GOLDEN TEXT—“Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now” (Numbers 14:19).

ANALYZING

The Israelites could see the Promised Land from their camp across the Jordan River. They were so close to experiencing what God had promised them before they left Egypt. But their fears got the best of them after ten of their spies told them that the nations were too powerful to overcome. The Lord had had enough. The Israelites were saved because Moses advocated for them after the Lord threatened to execute His wrath. From this passage, we learn much about the character of the Israelites, Moses, and God.

1. The character of the Israelites (Num. 14:11-12). The Israelites had been complaining about not having food to eat and then complained that all they had to eat was manna (vss. 4-6). They complained about not having water to drink (Ex. 17:1-7), about Moses' absence (32:1-2), and having to enter the Promised Land to fight the powerful Amalekites (Num. 14:1-4). Rather than trust God, they continually griped that He did not meet their needs. The ten spies were an

example of this. When they spied out the Promised Land, they concluded that it would be suicidal to go up against the Amalekites (the “giants”). The Israelites did not trust that the Lord could deliver them. They said they should find new leaders who would lead them back to Egypt.

When things became difficult, the Israelites were always ready to return to Egypt. They conjured up images of a life of plenty in Egypt, which was out of touch with the reality of the enslavement and oppression they endured. They forgot how they cried to the Lord for help when they were still in Egypt (Ex. 2:23-25). They did not remember that the Lord led them out of Egypt through the Red Sea (chap. 14), and, in a pillar of fire and cloud, led them safely through the wilderness. As a result, they refused to complete the journey on which the Lord had led them (Num. 14:4). This is why God was so angry with them.

2. The character of Moses (Num. 14:13-19). These verses tell us a lot about Moses. He was faced with a choice: he could gratify himself or make a sacrifice on behalf of God's people. The Lord said He would

destroy the Israelites and then create a new nation from Moses. That might have been tempting because it would have given Moses even greater status among the nations. Instead of being the nation of Israel, the people would be the nation of Moses. But this would also mean the deaths of the Israelites, including Moses' brother and sister, Aaron and Miriam. Moses chose to plead for the Lord's mercy toward them, rather than gain his own glory.

Moses chose to put the interests of the Israelites ahead of his own. His argument against destroying the Israelites was based on what it would do to God's reputation. Moses believed that other nations would conclude that God was too weak to save His own people, and they would mock Him as a result. That is the same argument he used when the Israelites crafted and worshipped the gold calf (Ex. 32:11-14). Moses' decision revealed that he was more interested in saving the people of Israel than in advancing his own interests.

He loved the Lord and wanted above all else to protect His honor. God's honor served as the basis for Moses' argument against destroying the Israelites. The Lord, of course, did not need Moses to protect His reputation, but Moses' desire to do so revealed the depth of his love for God.

Moses had personally experienced the nature of God's character and knew of His patience and mercy (3:1—4:17). Although he had his moments of frustration and impatience (Num. 20:10-12), Moses was patient with those in his charge. He continued faithfully leading Israel though his leadership was repeatedly challenged (12:1-2; 16:1-3). Based

on these character traits, Moses appealed to God for mercy toward the Israelites.

3. God's character (Num. 14:20-24). We learn much about God's character from these verses. The Lord delights in showing His mercy. Though He was angry and ready to destroy the Israelites because of their idolatry and disobedience, He was more than willing to spare them at Moses' request. He is always inclined to show mercy rather than judgment. But His mercy is not without justice. He did not destroy the people immediately, but He did pronounce judgment on them. He allowed them to live, but not without consequences for their actions—none of them besides Joshua and Caleb would enter the Promised Land. They would instead die in the desert. The ten spies who stirred up the Israelites to reject the leadership of Moses and Aaron received a death sentence for their actions.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- M—Moses Appeals to God's Promise. Ex. 32:7-14.
- T—God's Glory in His Deliverance. Isa. 63:7-14.
- W—God Vindicates His Name. Ezek. 36:16-23.
- T—A Call to Repentance. Joel 2:12-17.
- F—Hard Hearts. Ps. 95:6-11.
- S—Unbelief—the Source of Hard Hearts. Heb. 3:7-19.
- S—Mercy and Judgment. Num. 14:11-24.

APPLYING

There are many ways to apply the lessons from Numbers 14:11-24. It is important to understand that God's tendency is to show mercy rather than condemnation. God is quick to show mercy and is, by nature, for us and not against us (Rom. 8:31).

First, we can learn the way of Moses. In this passage, Moses reflected the character of God, while the Israelites failed to do so. The more we know and experience God, the more we will reflect His character. Moses spent time with God, so his character reflected God's character. Moses quoted back to God His description of Himself (Num. 14:18). In what ways does your life reflect the character of God and the character of Moses? How can you develop your character to be more like God's?

Second, have you, like Moses, faced a situation in which you had to choose between something that benefited you and something that benefited others? Perhaps your parents thought your sibling did something wrong, when it was you who did. Did you tell the truth or remain silent? Or perhaps you saw a social media post unfairly criticizing a friend. Did you defend your friend? Moses chose to deny his own desires in favor of meeting the needs of others. Think of a situation in which you can deny your own desires in order to meet the needs of someone else.

Third, the Lord desires us to love Him through our obedience. Yet even when we fail, He continues to love and show mercy to us. Moses knew this and thus sought mercy for his fellow Israelites. Do you believe God is for you and not against you?

Fourth, with the knowledge of the Lord's mercy, Moses advocated for the Israelites before God, just as Jesus does for us (1 John 2:1). Advocates intervene on behalf of other people. Advocacy often means sacrificing gratification of one's own needs, just as it did for Moses and Jesus. What a difference it makes when

someone—be it a parent, teacher, or friend—is willing to advocate for us!

Finally, the Israelites' first reaction to a difficult situation was to complain and imagine they were better off back in Egypt. The reality was that they did not trust God. It seems as if the world's default mode is complaining—about the weather, people, politicians and other leaders, and, for adults, about current times versus “the good old days.” Why do you think complaining is so widespread?

If we believe in God's love and mercy and that He is a trustworthy advocate on our behalf, instead of complaining, we will be full of gratitude no matter the circumstances. We will eagerly follow the Lord wherever He leads us and do whatever He wants us to do. We will live a life of trust in Him.

ASKING

1. Why was God angry with the Israelites?
2. What did their complaints reveal about their view of God?
3. What decision did Moses face when the Lord told him that He would destroy the Israelites and then build a new nation from him?
4. What did that decision reveal about Moses' character?
5. Why was it important to Moses to protect God's reputation among the nations?
6. What do we learn about the character of God from Numbers 14:11-24?