



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

***SENIOR HIGH BIBLE TEACHER***  
**FOR TEACHERS OF TEENS AGES 15-17**

***SUMMER QUARTER | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST 2026***

# Senior High Bible Teacher

**SUMMER QUARTER**

**June, July, August 2026**

The Weeks Ahead.....	2
Editorial.....	3

## The Lord's Patience with His People

### UNIT 1: Slow to Anger

June 7—Moses Prays for Mercy—Num. 14:11-24.....	5
June 14—God Renews His Covenant—Ex. 34:1-14.....	11
June 21—God's Mercy in History—Josh. 24:2-13.....	17
June 28—God Grants Israel a King—1 Sam. 8:1-18.....	23

### UNIT 2: Faithful to His Promises

July 5—God Gathers All Nations—Jer. 3:11-20.....	29
July 12—God Sends a Righteous Branch—Jer. 23:1-8.....	35
July 19—God's Faithful Justice—Jer. 26:1-13.....	41
July 26—God's Hope for Exiles—Jer. 29:1-14.....	47
Aug. 2—God's Promised Land—Jer. 30:1-11, 18-22.....	53

### UNIT 3: His Compassion Never Fails

Aug. 9—God Reconciles His People—Jer. 31:1-14.....	59
Aug. 16—The Good Shepherd—Ezek. 34:1-16.....	65
Aug. 23—God's Love for Israel—Hos. 11:1-11.....	70
Aug. 30—God's Faithfulness to Israel—Mic. 7:14-20.....	75
Paragraphs on Places and People.....	80



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# The Weeks Ahead

Welcome to the summer quarter! This quarter's lessons will focus on some common themes, such as God's deep love and mercy, His trustworthiness, and how He uses imperfect people to accomplish His will and proclaim His Word.

Lesson 1 compares God's character with those of Moses and the Israelites. It also presents how Moses' character was shaped by his personal relationship with the Lord, as well as what was lacking in the character of the Israelites. Lesson 2 further addresses the character of God, particularly His holiness and His status as the one true God. We will look at the story of Moses' second trip up to the summit of Mount Sinai.

Lesson 3 looks at Joshua's final address to the twelve tribes of Israel before he died and the importance of remembering the works of the Lord. Also, this lesson offers the opportunity to discuss why the conquering of the Promised Land was not genocide. Lesson 4 focuses on the consequences of our decisions, using the story of the Israelites' request for a king to rule them. This lesson offers an excellent opportunity for students to consider the consequences of their decisions.

Lesson 5 looks at the Lord's plea through Jeremiah to the exiled nation of Israel residing in Assyria. Contained in this lesson are themes of confession and repentance and the values of the kingdom of God. Lesson 6 examines the poor role models of Judah's kings, as well as God giving His people a new life away from Egypt. Themes discussed include the importance of good leadership and

the effects of bad leadership, hope for the future, and reorienting our identities in Christ.

Lesson 7 focuses on God's command that Jeremiah confront the leaders about their behavior, calling for them to repent or face the Lord's judgment. We discover the cost of obeying God's commands, the courage needed to obey, and the Lord's mercy through warnings of impending judgment.

Lesson 8 examines Jeremiah's letter to the Israelites exiled in Babylon. It is a letter of hope and encouragement. This lesson spotlights God's sovereignty and mercy and the necessity of hope. Lesson 9 builds on God's sovereignty, mercy, and hope. Also included is a focus on lament and the role it played in the life of the exiles. Lesson 10 looks at the Lord's command to Jeremiah to plead with the Israelites exiled in Assyria to repent and return to Him. In this lesson, we see God seeking to woo the Israelites back to Him.

Lesson 11 examines leadership with Ezekiel's impassioned prophecy against Israel's shepherds. They had failed miserably as leaders and thus would be replaced by the Lord Himself. The intended focus is on what good leadership looks like.

Lesson 12 shows God as a divine parent who disciplines His rebellious children for their own good because He loves them. Lesson 13 visits the book of Micah, where the Lord is presented in a different role as the loving and Good Shepherd who carefully tends to His sheep. Hope is restored as Israel aligns with the Good Shepherd.

**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).

# There Is No Other God Like Our God

When you first look at the Scriptures you will be teaching this quarter, your heart may jump a bit in your chest as you think, *The Old Testament?* Maybe you have not taught from the Old Testament in long while.

Most of us are much more comfortable teaching about the New Testament because it contains themes such as God's love, forgiveness, mercy, compassion, and hope for the future. But these are also found throughout the Old Testament.

The sad truth is that many Christians do not realize this and have bought into the notion that the God of the Old Testament is different from the God in the New Testament. In fact, He is the same, and the entire Bible is His story. This quarter, you will have the opportunity to share this understanding with your students.

## THE CHARACTERS AND PLOT OF GOD'S STORY

Throughout these lessons, the focus will be on God's story, with the two main characters being God and the Israelites. The other significant characters are Moses and several prophets. The plotline covers the history of Israel's relationship with the Lord, from its beginnings with Abraham through the exile of both Israel and Judah.

God, of course, was and is the main character. He originated the story and created humans to participate in it. The original plot of the story had God and humans partnering in building His kingdom on earth. Of course, that plotline quickly went awry. God cre-

ated a whole new plot to accommodate now-fallen humanity. It got off to a rough start with a worldwide flood destroying all but a handful of people. But soon the story finds its footing with God choosing Abram, a man of pagan roots, to become the patriarch of a whole new nation—Israel. It is here where the new story begins to unfold and offers hints of the original story.

## REBELS, UNFAITHFUL SPOUSES, AND WANDERING SHEEP

As we will see this quarter, God revealed Himself as a parent, a husband, and a shepherd, with Israel portrayed as a child, a spouse, and a flock of sheep. While these roles are ideally full of joy and purpose, God found them frustratingly painful. Although He made a covenant with His people, they were continually rebellious, unfaithful, and wandering away from the truth. Yet the Lord did not give up on them. He continues to be faithful to Israel.

## THE HUMANS IN THE STORY

To guide the Israelites in the fallen, hostile world, God chose people to lead them. He chose Joseph to save Jacob and the patriarchs of the twelve tribes from famine. The Lord then chose Moses to lead God's people out of Egypt, Joshua to gain possession of the Promised Land, and judges to watch over and protect them. Samuel was the last judge, and then Israel requested a human king to lead them.

As the Israelites rebelled and were unfaithful to the Lord, He sent prophets to warn them and plead with them

to return to Him. This quarter's lessons feature Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Hosea. With the kingdoms of Israel and Judah both continuing to rebel and to be unfaithful, despite God warning them of the consequences, He finally had enough and sent them into exile.

But the story, of course, does not end there. Like a loving husband, father, and shepherd, He continued to pursue them, promising to restore them if they just repented.

## **WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD IN HIS STORY**

One of the great benefits of reading the Old Testament is that we can see just how much God is the same loving God that He is in the New Testament. There is no difference.

We see in the Old Testament a God who is extremely patient, just as Jesus is in the New Testament. God deeply loves the people He has created—whether or not they believe in Him, honor Him, or obey Him—just as Jesus does. We see a God of justice who shows mercy and forgives sin, just as Jesus does for the woman caught in adultery. We see God show compassion, just as Jesus does to the sick or disabled.

We see a God providing a discouraged people encouragement and hope for the future, just as we see Jesus do for His followers. We see a God who is like no other God, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

## **THE VALUE OF THESE LESSONS FOR YOUR STUDENTS**

These lessons can be applied to the lives of your students. Adolescence is challenging. Hormones are raging, tensions with parents are rising, peer influence is increasing, and the future is looming, along with potential life-altering decisions. As a result, teens are questioning, anxious, and often feel vulnerable and insecure.

They need a living hope coupled with encouragement. They need to know how much God values and loves them and how much He cares about the details of their lives. They need reassurance that He wants to be their Shepherd throughout their lives.

They need to know that the Lord is for them and not against them and the assurance that while He gives them freedom to make choices, He always has the best plan for them. Most important, they need to grasp how relevant the Lord is to their daily lives so that they can build solid spiritual foundations on which to live as followers of Jesus.

## **THE BEST WAY TO IMPART THESE LESSONS TO YOUR STUDENTS**

Students today have increasingly shorter attention spans. The best way to teach these lessons is through discussion rather than lecture. You can give each student a few sticky notes to jot down answers to questions. Discussion engages them and builds relationships. It can also help students develop ownership of the lessons.

Also, the more you can share your own experiences as a teenager in relation to the lessons, the better. It will help create a bond between you and your students, as well as help provide examples of things not to do in life.

## **FINAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

It is a great privilege and honor to help young people learn more about the Lord and how to live for Him. You can do that best through sharing with them your love for the Lord, the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life, your enthusiasm for His Word, and your desire to apply it to your life.

May the Lord richly bless your efforts and the students who will benefit from them.

# 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 sware 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 sware 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

# 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

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**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).

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## *Studying the Text*

Numbers 14:11-24 reveals the character of the Israelites, Moses, and God as the Israelites camp on the banks of the Jordan River with the Promised Land in sight on the other side. Some context is needed to better understand what is going on. In fact, the context of any passage is important in understanding Scripture. Without it we are in danger of misinterpreting or misapplying Scripture in our lives. To better understand our passage's context, read all of Numbers 14.

Specifically, this passage covers the time immediately after the twelve Israelite spies returned from the Promised Land. Joshua and Caleb offered a favorable report, but the remaining ten spies reported that it would be impossible to conquer the nations there and that they should not cross the Jordan River. Their negative report caused fear and dread among the Israelites. They forgot how powerfully God had rescued them from the hands of their enemies. The ten then stirred up the faithless crowd to rebel against the Lord, prompting Moses and Aaron to fall on their faces to humbly plead with Him. Joshua

and Caleb, sensing imminent disaster from the Lord's wrath, sought to convince their fellow Israelites of God's faithfulness and the certainty of His favor with them in conquering the nations. The response of their fellow Israelites was an intent to stone Moses and Aaron and select new leaders to lead them back to Egypt (vss. 1-10). At that moment, the glory of the Lord appeared and crushed the coup.

God expressed His anger toward the Israelites and His intent to destroy them and start over with a nation that would come from Moses and his descendants. Moses pleaded with the Lord to show mercy and not destroy them, saying the Egyptians would conclude that God was too weak to bring His people into the Promised Land, even though He led them by a pillar of fire by night and cloud by day through the wilderness (vs. 14). Because Moses chose to advocate for the Israelites, the Lord spared them (except for the ten spies who stirred up the crowd) and instead sentenced them to live out their lives in the wilderness and never enter the Promised Land (vss. 28-38).

## **THE CHARACTER OF THE ISRAELITES—Num. 14:11-12**

These verses focus on God's anger toward the Israelites, but it is important to understand the reasons for His anger, which this passage does not explain in full. Critical to the context is the history of Israel after they left Egypt. They continually complained about the amount and type of food they were provided (11:4-6), the lack of available water (Ex. 17:1-7), Moses' absence (32:1-2), and having to fight the Amalekites and other people in the Promised Land (Num. 13:28-29, 31-33; 14:1-4).

Their continual complaining revealed that they did not trust God to have their best interests in mind or to provide for them no matter their circumstances. They lost touch with the reality of their lives in Egypt, where the rulers enslaved and oppressed them (Ex. 5:4-19).

They conjured fantasies that they were better off in Egypt. They remembered the good old days when they ate well (or so they believed now) in Egypt (Num. 11:5). They forgot how the Lord heard them when they cried out to Him for relief from the terrible oppression of Pharaoh (Ex. 2:23-25). They forgot how He led them through the Red Sea (chap. 14) and how His pillar of fire and cloud led them through the wilderness all the way to the Jordan River. They forgot that God told them He would go before them through the wilderness and into the Promised Land, where they would find a land "flowing with milk and honey" (3:17).

They had plenty of evidence of God's faithfulness. The Lord always came through for them in times of difficulty, but they complained each time there appeared to be a crisis. They quickly forgot God's previous actions. This is why the Lord was so angry with them.

## **THE CHARACTER OF MOSES—Num. 14:13-19**

When God told Moses He was about to destroy the Israelites and create a new nation from him and his descendants, Moses had a choice to make. He could either accept the Lord's decision to kill off the Israelites (a choice that would mean the deaths of his brother, Aaron, and his sister, Miriam) or attempt to advocate for the Israelites in hopes the Lord would relent. While being the primary patriarch would give him prestige, he made a choice that revealed his character.

Moses chose to advocate for the lives of the Israelites. He argued that the Lord's reputation was at stake. He said if God destroyed the Israelites, Egypt (along with other nations) would claim that the Lord was too weak to save them. Thus, Moses pleaded, He should spare the Israelites to save His reputation. It was not an argument based on God's pride but rather on Moses' desire for the nations to respect and fear the Lord.

In the ancient Near East culture, the reputations of gods were important. For example, when the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant and placed it in the temple of their god Dagon, the god's statue was toppled twice and then broken, signifying that the power of God was superior to that of Dagon (1 Sam. 5:1-4). The Philistines became so fearful that they begged their leaders not to send the ark of the covenant to their towns (vss. 6-12).

Moses' argument was the same one that he made when the Israelites worshipped the golden calf (Ex. 32:11-14). His argument reveals just how much Moses loved God. He wanted to protect the reputation of the Lord, even though he did not need to.

In his plea, he also recounted the Lord's character (see below) as a reason for sparing the Israelites. He had experienced God's character in his own life, particularly His patience and mercy when he encountered God in the burning bush (3:1—4:17), and this informed his plea to the Lord to have mercy on the Israelites.

He also exemplified the Lord's character by advocating for the Israelites even though they complained about him and often challenged his leadership (Num. 12:1-2; 16:1-3). Although he had his moments of frustration and impatience (20:10-12), he still retained a posture of love toward the Israelites just as God did. That reflects the type of relationship Moses had with the Lord. Because he regularly spent time with Him, Moses reflected the character of God in his life. Thus, he desired that the Israelites be shown mercy rather than be punished.

### **THE CHARACTER OF GOD— Num. 14:20-24**

Moses revealed God's character when he reminded Him of His own description of it and asked Him to exhibit that character toward the Israelites: "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" (vs. 18). This passage describes the breadth of God's character in dealing with rebellion against His commands. He is patient and merciful even beyond the current generation to the generations of their descendants. This description is far different from what many believe about the God of the Old Testament. Whereas some see mostly judgment, the Lord reveals the extent of His mercy and love.

Moses made an interesting observation when he prayed prior to the

quotation, "And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great" (vs. 17). God's character is evidence of His power. We typically associate power with people who have control and judgment over people's lives, such as politicians, schoolteachers, administrators, and police officers. But Moses was saying it is also exhibited in God's mercy, as well as all the other attributes of His character, which we see in action when He quickly agreed to show mercy to the Israelites even though He was very angry with them. God's propensity is always for mercy, not judgment, and that truly reveals His power.

But His mercy is not without justice. Although He spared the Israelites' lives, they had to suffer consequences. They would not enter the Promised Land but rather would wander in the wilderness and die there. God was merciful because He recognized the fear behind the rebellion. The spies had delivered a bad report, creating fear among the Israelites. Because they stirred up the people to believe they should not enter the Promised Land, God proclaimed the judgment of immediate death (vss. 36-37). Their sin influenced all the Israelites. God would not tolerate leaders advocating open rebellion against Him (cf. 12:1-10; 16:1-35). Only Joshua and Caleb were exempted because of their faithfulness to God as they tried to convince the Israelites to be obedient to the Lord.

## **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.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

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 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 this passage?

## REAL-LIFE APPLICATIONS

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). Students often feel guilty about sins in their lives and can succumb to the devil's lie that they are unforgivable. Emphasizing God's inclination toward mercy can help them receive forgiveness more easily and move on from sin. Realizing God's mercy and accepting it sets them free.

Students also often imagine that following the Lord is too risky. They fear that they will be ostracized by their friends, never have fun again, or be ridiculed by family members. Thus, it is often easier for them to reject God than to embrace Him.

To combat this, students can learn from 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. 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?

Ask your students if they, like Moses, have faced situations in which they had to choose between something that benefited them and something that benefited others. Perhaps their parents blamed a sibling for something they themselves did. Did they tell the truth or remain silent? Or perhaps they saw a social media post unfairly criticizing a friend. Did they defend the friend? Moses chose to deny his own desires in favor of meeting the needs of others. Students will often face this same choice. Christ calls us to deny ourselves for the sake of others (Luke 9:23).

The three following practices help students deepen their relationship with the Lord and become more like Him: 1) spending time in the Word, which informs them of God's commands and character; 2) spending time in prayer, conversing with God (using the ACTS approach is helpful: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication); and 3) learning how to apply what they read and what God reveals about how they need to change their lives.

To know the Word, students must develop the habit of reading it. Most students do not know how to do this on their own but can do it in a Bible class or youth group. Providing them with training and resources can help them learn this habit.

Learning how to apply the Word depends on asking the right questions of a particular passage of Scripture. There are the three main components of the inductive approach of study:

- Observation (What is happening in the passage?)
- Interpretation (What does it mean?)
- Application (What implications does it have for my daily life?)

The Lord wants us to love Him through our obedience. Yet even when we fail, He continues to love us and desires to 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?

Moses advocated for the Israelites when he intervened on their behalf. Advocacy is a biblical concept. Jesus is called an advocate by the apostle John (1 John 2:1). Advocacy often means sacrificing gratification of one's own needs, just as it did for Moses and Jesus. Your students may be unfamiliar with the value of advocacy and how it can be practiced in their lives.

## TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

### Purpose

Numbers 14:11-24 provides the opportunity to focus on the importance of character by comparing the Israelites with Moses and God. It also provides an opportunity to remind students of the importance of developing a godly character. Ask them what they can do to become more like Jesus.

### Planning Your Presentation

Do your own inductive study of this lesson's Scripture passage. If you are unsure of how to do this, consult a book on Bible study methods (also called hermeneutics) or find a good tutorial on the Internet. Reflect on what you have read and how to apply it to your own life.

Pray that the Lord will speak to your students' hearts and open their minds

to what He wants to teach them. Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit in your preparation and teaching. Pray that your students will apply what they learn to their lives.

Students learn best when they are engaging in discussion rather than just listening to a teacher giving a lecture. Therefore, provide a short overview of the text and the lesson, focusing briefly on inductive Bible study and showing how to do it. Use the visual aid to show how our characters can be shaped to look more like God's character. Then ask open-ended questions, preferably similar to those in the Applying section of their lesson.

If you have more than ten students, divide them into groups of four to five each and have them discuss the questions in their groups.

The aim is for them to leave with a clear challenge to apply the lesson to their own lives. Prepare a specific application task for them to complete during the week, possibly written on cards to hand out.

### Visual Aid

Use the visual aid to instruct the students in how they can know God in a deeper way and become more like Him.

