

STUDY NOTES

VISION 2020 A SERIES at NEW CITY CHURCH

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The following content is based on the message "Being A Day Twelve People" on 1/12/2020 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this study guide effectively, you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: DEUTERONOMY 1:1-33 (READ THROUGHOUT)

IN THE WILDERNESS FOR TOO LONG (1:2-8)

A journey that should have taken 11 days, ending with Israel going into the promised land on day 12, actually took the Israelites 40 years to complete. God promised them a land to dwell in, and gave them vision of how to take it, but it was too scary for them to believe.

- Why do you think it took the Israelites 14,600 days, rather than 11 days, to enter the promised land?
- In what location, habits, or state of mind have you been too long?

WAS THERE AN EASIER WAY? (1:9-18)

God is a god of movement. He has a journey for us. Yet, if you have followed Jesus for any length of time, you know that the journey may not be what we expect. It may be harder than we thought. The Israelites wanted an easier way than the way God laid out before them. After wandering around in the desert, they came to the promised land again. And again, God told them to enter into it, but they were afraid.

There is no easy way to live the life God calls us to live.

God is calling each of us to follow him. There may be moments when God calls us into big things. Then, there may be moments when we don't feel God calling us into any new plan. However, we are all called to obey Jesus in our daily lives. Whether we are called to a new plan or whether we are called to learn obedience or patience in a certain area of our lives—God is calling each of us today.

- What is God calling you to do, yet you are afraid because it won't be easy?

GOD IS BUILDING OUR FAITH (1:19-28)

If you want to do anything great and meaningful that honors God, it will be a battle! The enemy wants to derail what God is doing. He will place temptation in front of us to try to get us to doubt God. Israel doubted God and began to lose trust in him. The passage says that they began to murmur in the tents, rather than taking their fears to God himself. They didn't believe that God had their best interest in mind. Israel rebelled and wandered in the wilderness for years instead of trusting God's plan. Doubting God will always lead to rebellion against him.

Nothing will derail the movement of God like "murmuring in the tents."

- Talk about a time that you sought God, he brought you to something, and then you forgot about him after you arrived. Why did that happen?

GOD IS WITH US ON THE JOURNEY (1:29-33)

Deuteronomy 1:29-30 says, "Do not be in dread or afraid of them. The Lord your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes." If God is the one calling you, then you will need him to do the work. We often try to "power up" and do the work in our own strength.

"I can't" is often best translated as "I won't."

- Like Israel should have looked back at how God worked in their journey, take a moment to share a time in your life where you can see God at work in a difficult situation.
- Jesus proved that he is with us by being obedient to the cross. How should reflecting on Jesus's faithfulness help you obey him?
- Pray with each other as you try to trust God's plan for your life and obey him.