

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Be honest: What was your initial response to hearing that Doug was going to be preaching through the book of Numbers? How familiar with the book are you? What do you hope to learn from it? What other books or passages do you struggle with?

WORLDVIEW

2. How does the imagery of warfare in the Bible make you feel? Can this imagery be taken too far and abused? In what way?

GOING DEEPER

3. It seems self-evident that Numbers emphasises a theme of preparation for warfare, for a “militant march” of faith.

Can you think of biblical metaphors, passages, or exhortations that point us to the militancy of the Christian life? (For example, in 2 Timothy 2:3 Paul exhorts Timothy to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ.)

Why is this mindset important? How can this prepare us for living faithfully as Christians?

4. In these difficult, restrictive days, what are you learning about God’s faithfulness to his many promises concerning the advancement of the church? His care and provision of his people?

5. Most of the names of those who assisted Moses in taking the census make reference to God. This means that, during a long “lockdown” in Egypt, God’s people at least had a semblance of faith in him.

In our days, practically, how can we keep reminding one another about the character of God and his covenantal faithfulness?

How do the names of God inform your Christian walk and encourage your prayer life?

6. Read Hebrews 11:8–16, 39–40. Old covenant believers were looking for the day when God’s kingdom would come, inaugurated by Jesus Christ. We look forward to the fullness of that kingdom. Therefore, in some way, we can say that we live in the “wilderness.” In what ways (as seen in Numbers) should we emulate the Israelites and in what ways should we not? (You may find 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 helpful.)
7. The Levites were given a unique assignment (vv. 47–54). What do you glean from this concerning our responsibility as priests of God?