

## Numbers 1-19 Reflection

### ? Starting Questions:

- What do you think the original author was trying to get across?
- What does the passage say about God/man?
- How does the passage inform my response to God?

**These are some of our starting questions, but when we approach Scripture we are often left with additional questions of our own. This is a good thing! Here are a few questions we had while reading. Feel free to answer them, or come up with a few of your own:**

? How many times does Moses have to plead with God to remove punishment for either a person or the Israelites as a whole?

? Like in Exodus and Leviticus, the word "HOLY" appears frequently in this text. What do we learn about God and man in light of its frequency?

? Why was a census needed in chapter one?

? What do the consequences of sin in Israel tell you about God? About Man?

### ! Literary Elements (Themes and Repetition):

! **Grumbling/Complaining:** Throughout this section, the Israelites repeatedly grumble against God, against Moses and Aaron, and against their circumstances. While you're reading this story, try to keep track of what the Israelites are truly complaining about (ie. Are they complaining about lack of water? Or are they longing for the pleasures of Egypt?), Moses' response, and God's response.

! **Atonement:** Atonement is a word that is used throughout this story and was a theme we focused on in Exodus and Leviticus as well! In this passage, pay attention to WHO can make these atonements for the people of Israel and how serious God is about those he ordained to make these atonements. Hint: Every time you see instructions about Levites, perk up and see what's being said!

↗ **Prayer:** Holy God, open our eyes to your Word. Thank you for being a God who doesn't leave us in the dark, but rather you're a God who has made His dwelling place among man, first with the Israelites, and then through your Son Jesus Christ. Thank you for the gift of the Torah/Pentateuch and for allowing us to see your fierce love for your people in these details. Amen!