

## Study Guide Numbers 32

Big Idea: It's not about the cows, but a kingdom!

*"York and Lancaster have a shared history, to be sure, but a relationship that has since faced a milewide barrier: the Susquehanna River."* York Daily Record, April 18, 2023

Several tribes of Israel want to remain on the eastside of the river. It's a better place for livestock. That's make sense right? Well, when we dig a little, we find out that the river creates a barrier and disunity. We soon realize it's not about the cows but a kingdom.

1. To See: Read Numbers 32:1-5. Discuss the concept that we become what we behold. (see also Genesis 3:6; Genesis 13:10).
2. To Sit: Read Numbers 32:6-9. Why do you think this proposal was a discouragement to the others? Share a time when you felt discouraged by the lack of commitment from someone you depended on.
3. To Stop Wholly Following God: Read Numbers 32:10-15. It was interesting that the sin of self-indulgence and unbrotherliness, had led the group to the brink of destruction in the past. Now it seemed like it could happen again (v. 15). How can we be more intentional to "wholly follow the Lord" like Joshua and Caleb? (see also 2 Peter 1:3-8).
4. To Be Sidelined: According to Numbers 32:16+ it seems like they found a solution. Help with the war and then go back across the river. Notice that there was no addressing of the core issue (not wholly following God), and that in the future (Joshua 22 and Luke 8), that region was no longer really a part of Israel.

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1 John 2:15

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

In what areas would we agree with God that we "love the world" too much? How is it manifested in self-indulgence and unbrotherliness? How can we return back to loving God and His mission? Discuss.

Message Slides  
Numbers 32

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A. To See (Numbers 32:1)

Now the people of Reuben and the people of Gad had a very great number of livestock. And they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, and behold, the place was a place for livestock.

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1. You Become what you Behold.

Genesis 13:10 "...and lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan valley was well watered..."

Genesis 3:6 "When the woman saw that the tree was good for food..."

Matthew 6:22- "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness."

2. The Eye is Never Satisfied

Proverbs 27:28b "... never satisfied are the eyes of man."

A. To See (Numbers 32:2-5)

<sup>2</sup>So the people of Gad and the people of Reuben came and said to Moses..."the land that the Lord struck down before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock." <sup>5</sup>And they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession. Do not take us across the Jordan."

Proverbs 18:1

"Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment."

B. To Sit (Numbers 32:6-9)

<sup>6</sup>But Moses said ... "Shall your brothers go to the war while you sit here? <sup>7</sup>Why will you discourage the heart of the people of Israel from going over into the land that the Lord has given them? <sup>8</sup>Your fathers did this, when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land. <sup>9</sup>For when they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the people of Israel from going into the land that the Lord had given them.

1. My Inaction Affects the Group

2. The Power of Presence.

### C. To Stop Following God (Numbers 32:10-15)

<sup>10</sup> And the Lord's anger was kindled on that day, and he swore, saying, <sup>11</sup> 'Surely none of the men who came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, because they have not wholly followed me, <sup>12</sup> none except Caleb ... and Joshua..., for they have wholly followed the Lord.' ... <sup>14</sup> And behold, you have risen in your fathers' place, a brood of sinful men, to increase still more the fierce anger of the Lord against Israel! <sup>15</sup> For if you turn away from following him, he will again abandon them in the wilderness, and you will destroy all this people."

### 2 Peter 1:3-8

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, ... <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, ... and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful ...

### D. To be Sidelined (Numbers 32:16-42)

<sup>16</sup> Then they came near to him and said, "We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones, <sup>17</sup> but we will take up arms, ...

### Joshua 22:10-12

...the people of Reuben ... Gad ...half-tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by the Jordan, an altar of imposing size. ... <sup>12</sup> And when the people of Israel heard of it, the whole assembly of the people of Israel gathered at Shiloh to make war against them.

### Joshua 22:16-18

'What is this breach of faith that you have committed against the God of Israel in turning away this day from following the Lord by building yourselves an altar this day in rebellion against the Lord? <sup>17</sup> Have we not had enough of the sin at Peor ...?

### Judges 22:26-27

<sup>26</sup> Therefore we said, 'Let us now build an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice,

<sup>27</sup> but to be a witness between us ...we do perform the service of the Lord in his presence with our burnt offerings and sacrifices and peace offerings, so your children will not say to our children in time to come, "You have no portion in the Lord.

### Luke 8:26

Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons.

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1. Repent

2. Behold