

Study Aids

Discussion Questions and Suggested Readings For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 34

Questions

Do you see any parallels between the time of Moses and our own day in the matters of this lesson . . . complaining, jealousy, and fear? If so, what do you see. If not, why not?

Our circumstances may well be quite different than theirs in regard to our own variety of food available, but do our families sometimes complain about what they are served to eat? Do they always want great variety and gourmet style meals? Are you any easier to please than the Israelites were?

Do you support your pastor and other church leaders? Or would you like to take over and run things your way? Is it right for someone to presume for themselves a leadership role if they have not been trained for that position and properly called into that position?

The last of the three illustrations is the well-known case of the spies that were sent to explore the land and to report back about the people who lived there. Their reaction was one of fear and mistrust. They looked at the task before them with very limited human eyes and decided it was more than they could do. Isn’t that the way we often respond to challenges in our own lives? What is so different about us when compared to them? Don’t we often respond with weakness, and fail to turn to God for our strength? Do we have to go through 40 years of “wilderness training” too, in order to learn to put our trust in the One who knows what is best for us?

Suggested Reading for further study:

Josephus – the Essential Writings, by Dr. Paul Maier. This is actually a translation of the two major works of Josephus, the Jewish historian. Part I is the “Jewish Antiquities”, which traces the historical aspects of the Old Testament. It covers far more than just the period we are now studying, but does give the viewpoint of a second source. Part II is the “Jewish War” against the Romans after the death of Jesus.