

Look and Live!

Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:12-17

- ❑ The symptom: Complaining.

- ❑ The disease: Doubt in God's goodness.

- ❑ The consequence: Impending death.

- ❑ The cure:
 - Acknowledge sin and ask for help.

 - Look to Yahweh's provision.

Getting Started: Is complaining a big deal to God? Why or why not? What is the difference between complaining and acknowledging the difficulty, pain, or unhealthiness about something?

Digging In: Read Ex 14:11-12; 16:2-3; Num 11:1-2; 11:4-6; 12:1-2; 14:1-4; 16:1-4; 16:42-46; 20:2-6; 21:4-9. What is the repeated response of the Israelites in these situations? What do you think it reveals about their hearts? Our hearts? What is Moses' response? Why? What is God's response? Why? Why did the Israelites start complaining in Numbers 21? What do you think and feel about God sending the snakes? Why does God use a bronze snake in the healing and forgiveness of the people? Do you think it is important that the people simply had to look at the bronze snake as opposed to touching it or something else? Why or why not? Why does Jesus utilize this story in John 3:12-17? How does it help your understanding of the story in Numbers 21? What insight do these passages give about God's view of complaining: 1Cor 10:9-12; Php 2:14-16; Jam 3:13-18; 1Pet 4:9; Jude 14-16? How do these verses help you understand what it means "to look" to Jesus for life: Psalm 34:3; 123:2; 119:6,18; Isa 31:1; Jn 6:40; Heb 12:1-3?

Living It Out: Take a moral inventory on your complaining by answering this question: How do I complain in small ways? In big ways? How often? How much? How has my complaining harmed myself, others or my relationship with God? Do I see it as a problem or make excuses for it? Do others see it as a problem? How often do I give thanks to God and others? Take a complaint and try to see where at the core it is a lack of trust in God. Admit your inability to "just stop" complaining. Ask someone to pray for you. Acknowledge it to God as sin. Look to Jesus by praising Him as good and giving Him thanks.

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+ respond**

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Reading Plan

For May 1 – June 4

2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Exodus 32:1-35	3 Exodus 34:1-28	4 Exodus 34:29-35	5 Exodus 40:1-16	6 Exodus 40:17-38	7 Psalm 105:1-45
8	9 Nu 10:1-35	10 Nu 11:1-35	11 Nu 12:1-16	12 Nu 13:1-33	13 Nu 14:1-45	14 Psalm 107:1-43
15	16 Nu 16:1-33	17 Nu 16:41-17:13	18 Nu 20:1-29	19 Nu 21:1-25	20 Nu 22:1-21	21 Nu 22:22-41
22	23 Nu 23:1-30	24 Nu 24:1-25	25 Nu 25:1-18	26 Nu 30:1-16	27 Nu 31:1-30	28 Nu 34:1-15
29	30 Joshua 1:1-18	31 Joshua 2:1 -24	1 Joshua 3-4	2 Joshua 5-6	3 Joshua 7:1-26	4 Joshua 8:1-31

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15	16 Nu 16:1-33	17 Nu 16:41-17:13	18 Nu 20:1-29	19 Nu 21:1-25	20 Nu 22:1-21	21 Nu 22:22-41
22	23 Nu 23:1-30	24 Nu 24:1-25	25 Nu 25:1-18	26 Nu 30:1-16	27 Nu 31:1-30	28 Nu 34:1-15
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