



Topeka Bible Church
Settled Living in Unsettled Times, #3:
"Whining and Dining"
Community Group Study Questions
Numbers 11:1-35 and selected passages

1. Have you ever been around a complainer? How do you respond to their constant complaining? Why do you think they consistently complain? What did God think of the Israelites' complaining (*Numbers 11:1*)? Was this the Israelites' first instance of complaining (cf. *Exodus 14:11*)?

2. How did God initially provide for the Israelites' food while in the wilderness (*Exodus 16:14-15; Psalm 78:23-2-24*)? Why did they become so discontent with God's provision (*Numbers 11:5-7*)? Do you struggle with similar discontentment?

3. Does Moses become a complainer (*Numbers 11:10-11*)? How damaging can complaining become when leaders embrace it? Was Moses being selfish when he addressed God or was he confessing his weakness as a leader (*Numbers 11:14-15; Exodus 18:18; Proverbs 15:22*)?

4. How did God graciously supply Moses with what he needed (*Numbers 11:17, 25*)? How did He promise to supply what the Israelites wanted (*Numbers 11:18*)? Was God's response to the Israelites harsh (*Numbers 11:19-20; Psalm 78:26-27*)?

5. Why do you think Moses doubted God's ability to provide meat to the Israelite camp (*Numbers 11:21-22*; cf. *Matthew 15:33*)? Do you often doubt God's ability to do the miraculous? Why should we never doubt God's ability to do the miraculous (*Genesis 18:14*; *Luke 1:37*; *Romans 4:21*)?

6. God gave the people what they wanted in abundance (*Numbers 11:31-32*)! Why then did God's anger burn against the Israelites once again (*Numbers 11:33*; *Psalm 78:29-31*)? How do the consequences of their complaining compare with the consequences worshipping false gods (*2 Kings 22:17*; *Jeremiah 44:2-3*)?

7. What can we learn from *Numbers 11* (*1 Corinthians 10:10-11*)? What difference will we make when we replace complaining with gratitude (*Philippians 2:14-15*)? Do you need to confess a complaining to God? How can you cultivate an attitude of gratitude this week (*1 Thessalonians 5:18*; *Psalm 34:1*; *Hebrews 13:15*)?

Memory Verse:

"Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp."

(Numbers 11:1, NIV)