



Topeka Bible Church
Settled Living in Unsettled Times, #10:
"Boulevard of Broken Dreams"
Community Group Study Questions
Numbers 20:1-13 and selected passages

1. What major event starts this passage (*Numbers 20:1*)? Does grief over the death of a loved one sometimes cause unrest among a family or community? How do you think Miriam's death contributed to the Israelites' complaining?

2. Would you have been upset at the constant shortage of water (*Numbers 20:2*; cf. *Exodus 15:22*; *17:1*)? How does God desire for us to respond to difficulties or frustrations (*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*; *James 1:2-4*; *Hebrews 4:15-16*)?

3. To what are the Israelites referring in *Numbers 20:3* (*Numbers 16:31-35*)? Does this shock you? Why would they say this? Did they really believe that they were going to die (*Numbers 20:4-5*; *14:2-3* *Exodus 14:11-12*)? Why didn't they remember God's promises (*Psalms 119:83, 61, 141*)?

4. How was Moses supposed to bring forth water from the rock (*Numbers 20:8*; *Exodus 4:17, 20*)? Was he supposed to hit it with his staff? How did God demonstrate His mercy in the midst of His peoples' complaints (*Psalms 78:15-17*; *86:15*; *103:8*)?

5. How exactly did Moses bring water from the rock (*Numbers 20:11*)? Is this what God had commanded him to do? Why did Moses disobey God (cf. *Exodus 17:5-6*)? What did Moses' disobedience reveal about his belief in God at that moment (cf. *Mark 9:24*)?

6. While the Israelites enjoyed refreshing water, what did God declare to Moses (*Numbers 20:12; Deuteronomy 32:5--52; cf. Psalm 106:32-33*)? Does this punishment seem too harsh? Why would God judge Moses in this way (*Hebrews 3:16-19; cf. Isaiah 5:16*)?

7. Has your unbelief ever led you to sin against God and others? In spite of the fact that God has constantly proven Himself and His faithfulness to us, why do we struggle with unbelief in Him (*Matthew 17:20; John 11:40*)? Do you need to seek forgiveness from God for your unbelief (*Hebrews 11:6*)?

Memory Verse:

“But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.’”

(Numbers 20:12, NASB)