



Topeka Bible Church
Settled Living in Unsettled Times, #7:
"Keep Your Heart Soft"
Community Group Study Questions
Numbers 15:22-36 and selected passages

1. Give an example of an "unintentional" sin (*Numbers 15:22*)? Why does God make such a point to explain how to respond to these unintentional sins (*Leviticus 4:2; 5:15; Psalm 19:12; Hebrews 9:7*)?

2. Notice the first portion of this passage (*Numbers 15:22-26*). Why would the entire community be guilty of an unintentional sin (*Leviticus 4:13*)? How many kinds of offerings do you see listed in these verses?

3. What do we learn about the importance of purity for the entire Israelite community? Notice that foreigners were a part of this community (*Numbers 15:26*). If the Israelites were God's "chosen people," how did foreigners join this community (*Exodus 12:48-49; Leviticus 19:33-34*)?

4. *Numbers 15:27-29* deals with unintentional sins of the individual. How do the offerings made on the individual level differ from those made on the communal level (*Leviticus 4:27-28*)? Why might these two kinds of sacrifices be different?

5. What defines the heart of someone who sins defiantly (lit. "high-handed") against the Lord (*Numbers 15:30*)? Why are these defiant sins punished more severely than unintentional ones (*Luke 12:47-48*)? Should we remove people from our churches for committing similar sins (*Numbers 15:30; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 1 Timothy 1:20*)?

6. What was wrong with gathering sticks on the Sabbath (*Numbers 15:32-34*)? Why was the Sabbath important to God (*Exodus 31:14-15; 35:2*)? Does this penalty seem harsh to you (*Numbers 15:35-36*)? Could God ever put us to death for our sins (*1 Corinthians 11:30-31*)?

7. What purpose did the tassels serve (*Numbers 15:38-39*)? What "tassels" do we have today to remind us to love and obey God (*Numbers 15:40; 2 Peter 1:12-13; 3:1-2*)? How should you respond in light of your unintentional sins (*Psalms 26:2; 51:1-14, 17; 139:23-24; Revelation 2:23*)?

Memory Verse:

**"But the person who does anything defiantly, whether he is native or an alien, that one is blaspheming the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from among his people."
(Numbers 15:30, NASB)**