

Life Group/Personal Study

The Land Between • Week of June 7

Are you finding yourself in a place you have never been? Do things look different these days—i.e. shoppers wearing masks, spacious seating in restaurants (with no tea refill pitchers), specific entry/exit points at stores, barricaded drinking fountains? The world has changed. At the heels of mandated stay-at-home orders, violence and destruction now surface across our nation like never before. Like many civilizations throughout the landscape of history, we are finding ourselves in “The Land Between” – not where we *were*, but certainly not where we want to be.

Read **Acts 4:1-13** and **Numbers 11:1-10**

In Acts 4, the church has just been born, and yet, the apostles are arrested for healing a man. Why can't the religious leaders praise God for a man healed? Why can't they simply give God glory for working in their midst? In Number 11, the Lord has provided the cloud by day and the fire by night. The Lord has blessed them with manna each morning. And yet, the Israelites persist in complaining about their hardship. Though God's people are often driven into a dry and desolate place, the wilderness is the primary training ground for trusting God.

1. Right alongside your challenges, God is providing for you. Stop and thank the Lord now for at least three things He has done for you today (or in the last couple of weeks).

Though the Land Between is a rough and weary wilderness, it is the very place God meets His true servants; for example, Abram (Genesis 15:1-6), Moses (Exodus 3:1-8), Elijah (1 Kings 19:3-4,9-14), Job (Job 38:1), David (Psalm 27:1-6), the apostle Paul (Galatians 1:15-17), and Jesus—

“Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where He was tempted by the devil for forty days” (Luke 4:1-2a).

2. Like the priests, Temple guards, and the Sadducees in Acts 4, some people want other people to ‘stay in their place’ even if it means remaining crippled. How is a critical, complaining spirit like a deadly virus?

Any of us can become infected with the ‘complaining virus’ but there is a remedy. It is Praise! Praising the Lord will turn our hearts towards the fresh wind of God's Spirit. Praise will feed energy and creativity. Praise will fill our spirits with love and hope. You can choose *today* to praise God for providing for you. Resolve today to believe. Declare: “God is for me!” and begin to proclaim His promises. “The Lord is my Shepherd. I have all that I need” (Psalm 23:1).

Read **Psalms 34:1-8**. Rejoice that the Lord is with you in this ‘Land Between’—

“I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak His praises.”

Close in a time of prayer and praise.

The Land Between

Text: Acts 4:1-13, Numbers 11:1-10, Psalm 34:1-8

Plain Truth

_____ is the vaccine for the
_____ virus.

1. Praise _____ God is _____ us and
Complaining suggests He is _____ us.
2. Praise feeds _____ while
Complaining feeds _____.
3. Praise _____ while Complaining is
_____.

One Year Bible Reading

June 7: 1 Kings 2:1-3:2, Acts 5:1-42, Psalm 125:1-5, Proverbs 16:25

June 8: 1 Kings 3:3-4:34, Acts 6:1-15, Psalm 126:1-6, Proverbs 16:26-27

June 9: 1 Kings 5:1-6:38, Acts 7:1-29, Psalm 127:1-5, Proverbs 16:28-30

June 10: Kings 7:1-51, Acts 7:30-50, Psalm 128:1-6, Proverbs 16:31-33

June 11: 1 Kings 8:1-66, Acts 7:51-8:13, Psalm 129:1-8, Proverbs 17:1

June 12: 1 Kings 9:1-10:29, Acts 8:14-40, Psalm 130:1-8, Proverbs 17:2-3

June 13: 1 Kings 11:1-12:19, Acts 9:1-25, Psalm 131:1-3, Proverbs 17:4-5

June 6 & 7, 2020