

OPENING QUESTIONS

Can you recall a season of waiting in your life – a time when you were on the verge of something big becoming a reality? Were your hopes realized? Can you describe how it felt?

READ TOGETHER

Take time to read **Deuteronomy 1:1-8**.

BIG IDEA

God's plan is for us to enter the Promised Land and find our rest in Him.

GOAL

Our goal in this study is to understand the background to the book of Deuteronomy which focuses on a people on the verge of entering the Promised Land.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Deuteronomy 1 reveals Israel sitting on the verge of entering the land God promised them. How long should their journey have taken from Egypt to the Promised Land? How long did it, in reality, take?
- 2) Now read Exodus 3:1-10. What was God's plan for Israel when He brought them out of slavery in Egypt?
- 3) Why did Israel not experience what God wanted to do for them as He had planned? Read Numbers 14:1-35. How would you summarize what takes place in this story?
- 4) What is the significance of the number 40 in this story in Numbers 14. Check out verses 30-34 in particular.
- 5) In verses 6-8, Moses is recounting what God's original plan was as He spoke it to Israel at Mount Sinai. What does God say to them about the Promised Land?
- 6) The Promised Land was a geographical location designed by God as a safe place, a land free of enemies and war where they could experience peace and rest and live in reliance on God. Now read Hebrews 4:1-11. If the Promised Land was designed as a place of physical rest for Israel, what is God's plan for spiritual rest for us today?
- 7) Do you feel like you've entered the Promised Land – the place of rest described in Hebrews 4? Why or why not?
- 8) If you feel like you are on the verge of the promised land of God's rest, what do you sense will allow you to cross over into the land?

CHALLENGE

This week commit to walking in obedience to God. Take some time at the end of each day to think about your day and celebrate acts of obedience to God and to ask for His forgiveness where you have failed to obey.

PRAYER

Take time to pray as a group that God would open our eyes to see what He has for us in our Verge series over the next five weeks. Before you pray, read Ephesians 1:17-19 and use the words of Paul's prayer to guide you in yours.

NEXT STEPS

The next five weeks in our Verge series have the potential to deeply impact our lives. You can get ready to more fully enter into this teaching about the Promised Land by taking time this week to read through Deuteronomy chapters 1 through 6.