

**God's People in the Wilderness:
Lessons from the Book of Numbers"**

The Hebrew title of the book that we know as "Numbers" is "in the wilderness." How fitting it is! Walter Brueggemann's characterization of the wilderness is "having nothing, but lacking nothing." The fundamental question that shapes Israel's wilderness experiences—and ours—is this: "Is God with us or not?" Moses taught Israel to sing in the wilderness; we will follow that example, interspersing times of a *cappella* singing of wilderness hymns.

Session 1 [23 September] - Introduction: Names of the book; why "numbers" are important for Israel; place in Pentateuch

Session 2 [30 September] Chapters 1-2: Tribes and clans; results of census

Session 3 [7 October] Chapters 3-4: Levites and principle of redemption; guarding; procedures for transport (Kohathites)

Session 4 [14 October] Chapter 5: uncleanness; wife suspected of adultery

Session 5 [21 October] Chapter 6: Nazirite vow

Session 6 [28 October] Chapters 7-8: offerings (ch. 7) and Levites as wave offering (ch 8)

Missions Week [4 November]

Session 7 [11 November] Chapter 9: Second Passover

Session 8 [18 November] Chapters 9-10: Camping and Setting Out

Session 9 [25 November] Chapter 11: Discontent—manna, quail, elders

Session 10 [2 December] – Chapter 12: Miriam and Aaron

Session 11 [9 December] Chapter 13: Adventures and Report of the Spies

Session 12 [16 December] – Chapter 14: Rebellion and Consequences

Christmas and New Year's break