

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday School Outline

TOPIC: Quail - Sharing the Burden

TEXT: Numbers 11:4-35

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction - More than once I have thought about leaving the ministry. One time I seriously explored being the weatherman at the local television station. Leadership fatigue takes many to the sidelines. Whether one is a pastor, a student leader, or a business professional, the toll is great, and most leaders consider getting out from time to time. Being responsible for a nation comprised of former slaves who were fearful, suspicious, and ungrateful was a heavy burden. The people had their constant gripes against Moses and against God. Likewise, Moses had his own set of frustrations. In a very frank passage, we get a good look at how Moses handles his burden of leadership and what God does to empower him. *Read Numbers 11:4-35.*

Discussion Questions

1. Describe your impression of the state of the nation of Israel at this stage in their desert journey to the Promised Land. How relevant were the miracles in Egypt and at the red sea to these people at this point?
2. The passage reveals that the people had their constant protests against Moses and God. Whether at your church, your workplace, your school, or in another setting, how would you counsel such a leader who might be thinking of putting down the burdens and responsibilities he or she is carrying?

3. Read Vs. 4-6 - That miraculous gift was treated with such disregard. What complaints are commonly heard in the church about the Christian life? Could there be a justification for such complaints in our Christian lives?

4. Read Vs. 10-15; 21-22 - God is angry and Moses is troubled. How would you characterize their relationship with each other at that point? Was Moses' frustration with God at that point justified? What do you tend to do when you feel overwhelmed or angry?

5. Read Vs. 18-20; 31-34 - How would you describe how God deals with the people's complaints? Explain your views with Biblical examples.

6. Why do you think God responds to the Israelites with anger but to Moses with help and understanding?

7. Read Vs. 28-30 - While power is a great privilege, it is also a heavy burden not easily—and often not willingly—shared. What can we learn from Moses' response to God's empowering of the seventy elders?

8. As we glimpse several of Moses' strengths and weaknesses, what encouragement and/or lessons do you receive for your responsibilities in serving God and God's people?

9. Many Christians lack the honesty and courage to face their flaws and failings and the faith to trust God to meet their Spiritual and/or secular needs. How would you counsel such a person that failed to live up to her/his expectations or has not met the expectations of those to whom God has called her/him to bring up spiritually?