



# Cleansing the camp

*The proper administration of the tabernacle has been ensured. But it's no good having a functioning place of worship if it's surrounded by sin-polluted worshippers.*

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So this next section of Numbers deals with the holiness of God's people.

## Read Numbers 5 v 1 – 6 v 21

- 🔍 *Note the phrase repeated in 5 v 1, 5, 11 and 6 v 1, and recall how Numbers began in 1 v 1. Why is this phrase so important? What does it indicate about the regulations listed in chapters 5 – 6?*

The introductory phrase “The LORD spoke to Moses” marks out four main sections, all of which deal with cleansing the camp and ensuring Israel's holiness.

## Unclean?

- 🔍 *How does 5 v 3 explain the intense focus on holiness throughout chapters 5 and 6?*
- 🔍 *Which people are excluded from the camp in 5 v 2?*

## Read Luke 8 v 40-56; 17 v 12-19

- 🔍 *What is so amazing about the ministry of Jesus? How does he welcome and include those who were formerly outcast?*

## ▼ Apply

The provisions for holiness are required because God himself dwells with Israel. For God's people to dwell in God's presence, what is required? **Read Romans 3 v 21-26** and thank God for the provision of Jesus' sacrifice, which allows us to live in God's

presence for ever, purified and perfected (see Revelation 21 v 27).

## Restitution and judgment

5 v 5-10 deal with providing restitution for those who have been sinned against.

- 🔍 *How would these directions have strengthened unity within the Israelite camp?*

Verses 11-31 describe how to assess the guilt or innocence of a woman accused of adultery, even if there is no clear evidence (v 13).

- 🔍 *How does the elaborate ritual described in this section emphasise the importance of the purity of the camp?*
- 🔍 *What is God's punishment of adulterers? Why is it so severe?*

## Nazirites

The Nazirites (6 v 1-21) are walking symbolic representations of the holiness which the entire people of Israel are to exhibit. The camp is being cleansed and readied to march.

## ⬆️ Pray

Thank God that you are part of his purified people, washed and cleansed through the blood of Jesus Christ. Thank him that your judgment fell on his Son. Thank him that you are on your way to his promised land.