

# DISCOVER

INSIDE ISSUE 8: NUMBERS, JOHN, ROMANS

**1** Find a time when you can read the Bible each day



**2** Find a place where you can be quiet and think



**4** Ask God to help you understand what you read



**3** Grab your Bible and a pencil or pen



**5** Read today's Discover page and Bible bit



**6** Pray about what you have read and learned



## We want to...

- Explain the Bible clearly to you
- Help you enjoy your Bible
- Encourage you to turn to Jesus
- Help Christians follow Jesus

## Discover stands for...

- Total commitment to God's Word, the Bible
- Total commitment to getting its message over to you

## Team Discover

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# How to use Discover

Here at Discover, we want you at home to get the most out of reading the Bible. It's how God speaks to us today. And He's got loads of top things to say.

We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. You'll find that the NIV and New King James Version are best for doing the puzzles in Discover.



The Bible has 66 different books in it. So if the notes say...

## Read Numbers 1 v 1

...turn to the contents page of your Bible and look down the list of books to see what page Numbers begins on. Turn to that page.

"**Numbers 1 v 1**" means you need to go to chapter 1 of Numbers, and then find verse 1 of chapter 1 (the verse numbers are the tiny ones). Then jump in and read it!



Here's some other stuff you might come across...

## WEIRD WORDS

### Daffnattle

These boxes explain baffling words or phrases we come across in the Bible.



## Think!

This bit usually has a tricky personal question on what you've been reading about.



## Action!

Challenges you to put what you've read into action.



## Wow!

This section contains a gobsmacking fact that sums up what you've been reading about.



## Pray!

Gives you ideas for prayer. Prayer is talking to God. Don't be embarrassed! You can pray in your head if you want to. God still hears you! Even if there isn't a Pray! symbol, it's a good idea to pray about what you've read anyway.



# Coming up in Issue 8...

## Numbers: Counting on God

Ever been on a loooong journey... so long that you started complaining?

We join the Israelites on a *really* long journey from Egypt (where they were slaves) to Canaan — the amazing land God has promised to give them.

But there's a problem. Even after God has done so much for them, the Israelites *keep on* complaining because they don't really trust Him. So God takes them on a 40-YEAR DETOUR to teach them a lesson.

We'll read all about it in the book of Numbers (and we'll take a quick peak at Deuteronomy too). This journey is long but never boring. Brace yourself for a super spy mission, an invasion of poisonous snakes and even a talking donkey!

## John: The end for Jesus?

We'll tune in as John, one of Jesus' closest friends, gives us a first-hand account of three days that changed history for ever.

This stuff is seriously shocking and sad — Jesus is betrayed by one mate and abandoned by another. He's cruelly tortured and laughed at and executed, even though He's totally innocent! But John shows us how it was all part of God's plan to rescue us from sin. And Jesus chose to go through it because he loves us so so much!

And there's a twist in the tale for Jesus' friends three days later... read John to grab a front row seat on the action!

## Romans: Only one way

Romans is a letter from the apostle Paul to Christians in Rome, Italy.

But Paul's not interested in the perfect pizza recipe. The only thing on his mind is the gospel — the good news about Jesus! And Paul wants to tell the Romans all about it.

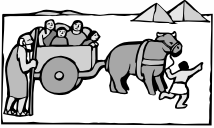
But before Paul can get to the good news, he hits us with the bad news. Humans have a big problem: sin. But God has an even bigger solution... the gospel!

**Ready to roll?  
Then turn this way...**

# Numbers: Counting on God

## Numbers

### 1 v 1-46



It's over a year since the Israelites escaped from Egypt. Now it's time to see how strong they are. They will be fighting battles on the way into **Canaan** — the country God promised to give them.

So in the special meeting tent, God told Moses what to do.

### Read Numbers 1 v 1-4

Complete God's instructions. The answers are in the wordsearch.

*The Israelites were God's special people.*

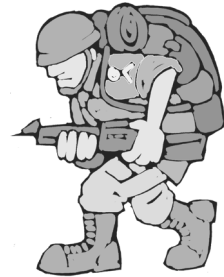
*God used Moses to lead them out of Egypt, where they had been treated badly as slaves (we read all about it in the last few issues of Discover).*

T	W	E	L	V	E	Q	H	A
W	W	D	O	S	Z	G	E	J
Z	G	E	P	D	M	J	A	R
N	F	R	N	R	Y	O	D	S
C	N	K	L	T	R	I	B	E
F	A	M	I	L	Y	H	K	R
B	R	S	H	F	Q	B	U	V
A	M	E	N	P	M	C	W	E
L	Y	X	T	F	I	G	H	T

### Now read verses 44-46

**So with the help of Aaron and the t\_\_\_\_\_ family leaders, they found that the number of men able to s\_\_\_\_\_ in Israel's a\_\_\_\_\_ was 603,550 (v44-46).**

What an army! But they'd be totally useless unless they **followed God's orders** (as we'll find out over the next two weeks).



Count the m\_\_\_\_\_

aged t\_\_\_\_\_ and over, who are able to f\_\_\_\_\_ (v3).

Get one man from each

t\_\_\_\_\_ to help you. He should be the h\_\_\_\_\_ of a f\_\_\_\_\_ (v4).

Christians are like soldiers in God's army (but we don't fight with guns!). It's so encouraging to think that there are millions of believers out there fighting for the gospel by **telling people about Jesus**.

## WEIRD WORDS

### Tent of Meeting

Also known as the Tabernacle. We'll learn more about it tomorrow.

### Census

A count of the population

If you want to read all the details, they're in **verses 5-43**.

## Pray!



If you're a believer, thank God that you are one of His army, His special people. Ask Him to give you the courage to serve Him.

# Intense in tents

## Numbers 1 v 47-54



*There were 13 tribes of Israel (well, two of them were half tribes).*

*But yesterday we read that only 12 tribes were counted for serving in the army.*

*What about the 13th tribe?*

## Read Numbers 1 v 47-49

The tribe of Levi (the Levites) were not counted, because they wouldn't be doing any fighting (lucky them!).

## Read verses 50-54

What was their special job? (v50)

### The Levites were in charge of the

t \_\_\_\_\_

## Tabernacle

A special, huge tent, where God was present among His people. It reminded the Israelites that God was with them all the time.

## Covenant law

Two big stones on which God had written the Ten Commandments. They were kept in a special box (the ark of the covenant) inside the tent.

The Israelites were living in tents. At the centre of their camp was the tabernacle tent, which the Levites looked after. They were responsible for dismantling it, and setting it up again, as they moved. Only the Levites were allowed in the tabernacle.

*What would happen to anyone else who wandered into God's presence in the tabernacle (v 51)?*

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## Action!

How can you show God more respect in your prayers, at school and with other people?

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## WEIRD WORDS

### Census

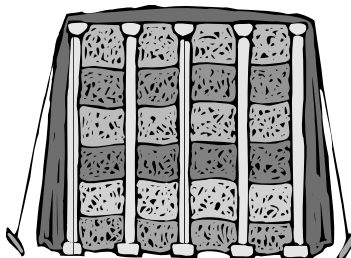
A count of the population

### Standard

Special flag

### Wrath

God's anger and punishment



## Pray!



God is so awesome and powerful, we shouldn't treat Him casually. He's the boss of our lives. We should show Him great respect. Tell Him how totally awesome you think He is now!

Numbers chapter 2 describes how the camp was set up. Read it if you like!

# God's swap

## Numbers 3



Do you swap things with friends?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Today we'll read about a swap that God made.

## WEIRD WORDS

### Offspring

Children

### Clans

Families

### Livestock

Animals

### Redeem

Buy back

### Sanctuary shekel

About 58 grams

### Exceeded

Were more than

Remember the Levites from yesterday? They're going to be part of the swap! **Numbers 3 v 1-10** tells us about Aaron's family who were priests. God chose the Levites to be special helpers to the priests. And that's not all...

## Read Numbers 3 v 11-13

### History Snippet

When God rescued the Israelites from Egypt, He sent ten plagues on the Egyptians. In the final plague, the eldest son (the firstborn) in each family died. But God saved the lives of the eldest Israelite sons. They then belonged to God in a special way.

But now God said to Moses...

I have taken the  
L \_\_\_\_\_ instead of the  
f \_\_\_\_\_

So now Moses has some more counting to do! (You can read all the details in verses 14-38.)

## Now read verses 39-51

Use these numbers to answer the questions below.

		5	
273		1,365	
22,000		22,273	

How many Levites were there?

How many firstborn males were there?

How many more firstborn males than Levites?

Not enough Levites to swap! For the left-over firstborn, the people had to pay God to buy them back (redeem them) from Him.

How many silver shekels for each firstborn?

How many shekels altogether?

## Wow!



But what's that got to do with us? Well, God has REDEEMED us. By dying on the cross, Jesus PAID THE PRICE for our sins. If we've trusted Him to forgive us, we now BELONG to God!

## Pray!



Spend time thanking God for buying back His people. Thank Him that Christians belong to Him! They are His people!

# Keep it clean!

Numbers  
5 v 1-4



*It's school assembly, and the head teacher is boring everyone with the usual kind of lecture...*

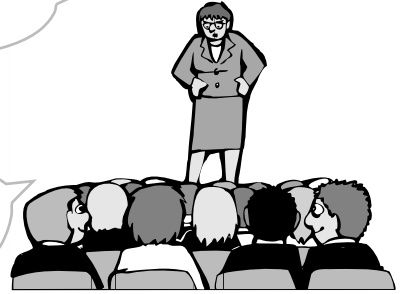
...and there will be no swearing in this school...

The lads at the back can't help smirking. They've heard that one before.

...and anyone using bad language will be immediately suspended.

The lads stop smirking. They **haven't** heard that before. This woman **means business!**

It's not much use just saying something. People need to show that you **mean business**. God had a serious message to get over to the Israelites. **He knew that words on their own wouldn't sink in.**



Disease was a picture of sin.

God has nothing against people with diseases; He loves them just as much. He was showing everyone how much He hates **sin**.

S\_\_nd th\_\_m aw\_\_y  
fr\_\_m the c\_\_mp

God didn't just **say** that He hates uncleanness. He meant business! And He wants His people to be **clean from sin**.



## Pray!

Write down any sin you can't seem to get rid of.

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Ask God to help you turn away from this sin. It won't be easy and it may take a long time, but God can help you fight it!

## WEIRD WORDS

### Defiling skin disease

A nasty disease that made people unclean before God

### Discharge

Icky stuff oozing from the body

### Ceremonially unclean

Not clean enough to be near God

## Read Numbers 5 v 1-4

God was living with His people. They had to be **clean** enough to be near God and to worship Him. The way God handled this uncleanness is a **picture** to us of something else...

*Fill in the missing vowels (aeiou) to reveal what God was saying.*

N\_\_ uncl\_\_ \_\_n\_\_ss  
wh\_\_re I l\_\_ve

Verses 5-31 show how sin was dealt with.

Some of it sounds harsh but that's how seriously God takes sin.