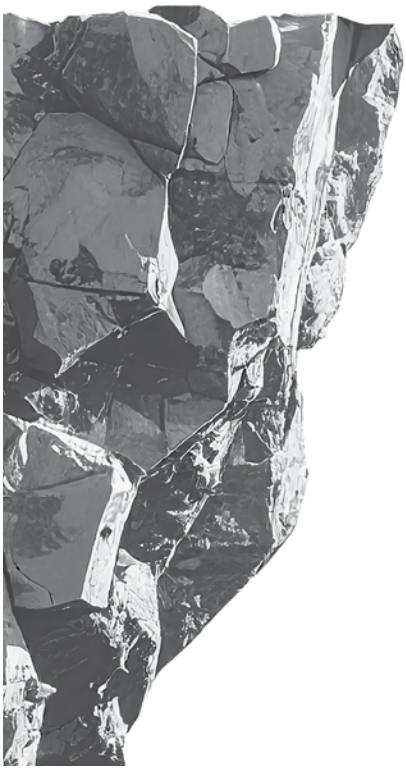
DEVOTIONAL

HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH



TRUSTING GOD



DAY 1: TRUSTING GOD IN EVERY SEASON

BIBLE VERSE

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (CSB) – "There is an occasion for everything, and a time for every activity under the heavens."

DEVOTIONAL

A new season can bring excitement and sadness at the same time. In Numbers 8, the Levites' responsibilities changed as they grew older, but they still had a meaningful place in serving God and helping others. Their example reminds us that a changing role does not erase our purpose. Some seasons invite us to learn, others call us to put that learning into practice, and still others give us opportunities to share wisdom with someone else. Through all of them, our identity is rooted in Jesus Christ rather than a title, an achievement, or the responsibilities we once carried. We can grieve what has changed while trusting that God is present in the chapter we are living today. Name one opportunity in your current season to grow or serve, and take a practical step toward it by asking for guidance, offering help, or encouraging someone younger in the faith. As you notice the needs and joys around you, you may discover meaningful ways to give what God has already placed in your hands.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What would faithfulness to God look like in your current season, especially in an area where your role is changing?

KEY TAKEAWAY

Your responsibilities may change, but your identity in Christ and your opportunity to serve Him remain.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for being with me in every season. Help me release what I need to release, receive what You are teaching me, and serve faithfully where You have placed me. Open my eyes to someone I can learn from or encourage today. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAY 2: TRUSTING GOD WITH OUR HEALING

BIBLE VERSE

Numbers 12:13 (CSB) – "Then Moses cried out to the Lord, 'God, please heal her!'"

DEVOTIONAL

Sickness can fill our minds with questions we cannot answer and fears we cannot quiet on our own. When Miriam became ill, Moses brought her need directly to God with a simple, urgent prayer. Although her illness involved God's judgment in this particular passage, we should not assume that every illness is caused by a person's sin. We may not know why suffering has come, but we can turn to the Lord with our pain and ask boldly for His help. God is able to heal, and we can seek medical care while also asking Him to work in ways only He can. Healing may come immediately or through a process, and when it does not come in this life, those who belong to Jesus still have the hope of eternal life with Him. Today, share a specific need with a trusted believer and ask them to pray with you, or reach out to someone who is hurting with prayer and a practical offer of support. We can entrust the outcome to God while continuing to ask for healing and receive His sustaining grace.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What need for healing can you bring honestly to God, and who could walk with you in prayer?

KEY TAKEAWAY

Ask boldly for healing and trust God's character, even when you do not understand the outcome.

PRAYER

Lord, You know the pain I carry and the people I am concerned about. Please bring healing, guide those providing care, and give us strength for today. Help me trust Your love as I wait, and show me how to care for someone who is hurting. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAY 3: TRUSTING GOD'S TIMING AND DIRECTION

BIBLE VERSE

Numbers 9:23a (CSB) – "At the Lord's command they encamped, and at the Lord's command they set out."

DEVOTIONAL

Waiting can feel especially hard when we have a clear idea of how quickly life should move. In Numbers 9, the Israelites followed God's leading through the cloud, setting out when it lifted and remaining when it stayed. They could depend on His presence even though they could not predict His timetable. We often want a schedule from God when He is inviting us to walk with Him one step at a time. For some of us, that means resisting the urge to rush ahead; for others, it means being willing to leave a comfortable place when obedience calls us forward. Today, set aside a few quiet minutes to read Scripture, pray about a decision, and listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance. Seek wise counsel and gather the facts, allowing God's Word to shape your next step rather than letting urgency or comfort make the decision for you. Whether this is a season of waiting or moving, you can trust God to sustain you as you follow Him.

REFLECTION QUESTION

Where might urgency or comfort be influencing you more than prayerful obedience to God?

KEY TAKEAWAY

Faithfulness includes both waiting on God and moving when He leads.

PRAYER

Father, I give You my plans and my preferred timetable. Quiet my heart, guide me through Your Word, and help me receive wise counsel. Give me patience to wait and courage to take the next step of obedience. In Jesus' name, amen.

DAY 4: TRUSTING GOD WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

BIBLE VERSE

Numbers 11:2 (CSB) – "Then the people cried out to Moses, and he prayed to the Lord, and the fire died down."

DEVOTIONAL

It is possible to receive God's care every day and gradually stop noticing it. In Numbers 11, the Israelites grew dissatisfied with the manna God provided and remembered Egypt's food while overlooking the bondage they had endured there. Their response invites us to examine how comparison and unmet desires shape our own hearts. Gratitude helps us recognize what God has given, and contentment grows as we learn to trust Him with what we do not have. This does not require us to hide pain, dismiss a real problem, or pretend that every circumstance is good. Moses brought his burden to God, and God provided people to help him carry it. Today, turn a recurring complaint into an honest prayer, and ask for help with a burden you have been carrying alone. Then offer someone a specific word of encouragement or practical help, allowing gratitude to shape the way you care for others.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What recurring complaint could become a prayer that names both your need and God's provision?

KEY TAKEAWAY

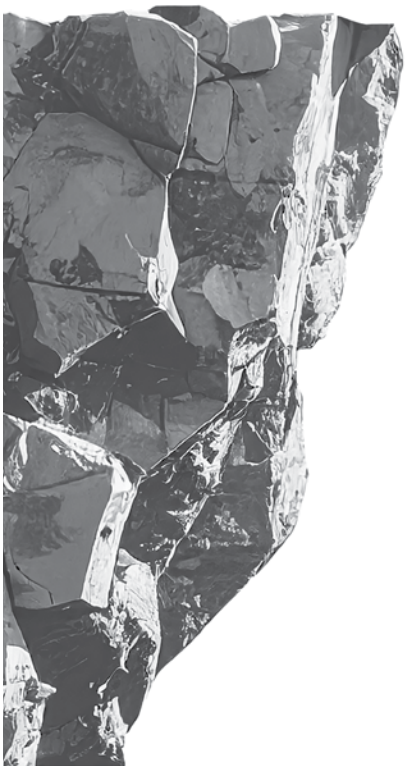
Trust grows as we bring our burdens to God, notice His gifts, and encourage one another.

PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for overlooking Your daily care. Help me bring my struggles to You honestly and receive the help You provide through others. Grow gratitude and contentment in my heart, and make me attentive to someone who needs encouragement today. In Jesus' name, amen.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH



TRUSTING GOD



THEME

Trust God in changing seasons, in our need for healing, in His timing, and in His daily provision. Because our identity and hope are rooted in Jesus Christ, we can take faithful steps even when our circumstances remain uncertain.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, thank You for welcoming us with our questions, burdens, and joys. As we open Your Word, help us know You more deeply and trust You more fully. Give us humility to listen, honesty to share, and compassion to care for one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

ICE BREAKER

What is one change in your life that took some getting used to, and what helped you adjust? It can be something small, such as a new routine, or a more significant transition.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Read these passages together:

- **Numbers 8:23–26:** The Levites' responsibilities changed, and they continued helping others serve.
- **Numbers 12:1–15:** Moses prayed for Miriam's healing after God confronted her and Aaron's criticism.
- **Numbers 9:15–23:** God directed the Israelites in both their movement and their waiting.
- **Numbers 11:4–6, 10–17:** The people complained about God's provision, and Moses brought his burden to God, who provided help.

SUMMARY

The wilderness journey reveals how deeply we need to trust God when life feels unfamiliar, painful, slow, or disappointing. The Levites' changing responsibilities remind us to learn, serve, and share wisdom throughout our lives, with our identity grounded in Christ. Moses' prayer for Miriam shows us how to bring a need for healing to God with humility and compassion, while entrusting the outcome to Him. The cloud over the tabernacle teaches us that both waiting and moving can be acts of obedience. The people's complaints about manna reveal how easily we can overlook God's daily provision, while His response to Moses' burden shows the importance of receiving help from others. Together, these messages call us to depend on the Lord and express that trust through faithful service, prayer, gratitude, and care for one another.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Recognizing your season:** Read Numbers 8:23–26. What changed for the Levites, and what opportunities remained? How does this encourage you in your current season?
2. **Remembering your identity:** When have you been tempted to find your worth in a role or accomplishment? How does belonging to Jesus change the way you approach learning, working, or helping others?
3. **Praying with compassion:** Read Numbers 12:13. Moses prayed for someone who had criticized him. What does his response teach us about caring for people when relationships are strained?
4. **Trusting through suffering**: How can we ask boldly for healing while entrusting the outcome to God? What kind of support helps someone who is still waiting or living with ongoing illness?
5. **Waiting and moving:** Read Numbers 9:15–23. What guided the Israelites' decisions? Are you more likely to rush ahead or stay where you are comfortable, and how can Scripture, prayer, and wise counsel help you respond faithfully?
6. **Noticing provision:** Read Numbers 11:4–6. What did the Israelites focus on, and what did they overlook? Where does comparison make it harder for you to recognize God's gifts?
7. **Bringing burdens to God:** Read Numbers 11:10–17. How did God respond to Moses' inability to carry the burden alone? What helps you move from repeated complaining toward honest prayer and receiving support?
8. **Caring for one another:** What need or joy have you noticed in someone else's life this week? What specific action could express God's care for that person?

LIFE APPLICATION

Choose one step to practice this week:

- **In your current season:** Ask someone for guidance, use a gift to serve, or share something God has taught you with another person.
- **In a need for healing:** Invite a trusted believer to pray with you, or offer someone who is hurting a meal, a ride, or a listening ear.
- **In a decision or delay:** Set aside time for Scripture and prayer, seek wise counsel, and identify the next step of obedience available to you.
- **In a pattern of complaining:** Write down three gifts from God each day, bring a recurring frustration to Him in prayer, and encourage someone by name.

Share your chosen step with one person in the group. Ask them to check in with you during the week, and offer to do the same for them.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Our identity in Christ remains secure when our responsibilities change.
- We can pray boldly for healing while trusting God with the outcome.
- Waiting and moving can both be expressions of obedience.
- Gratitude helps us recognize God's provision and grow in contentment.
- God calls us to receive help and care for others as we journey together.

ENDING PRAYER

Lord, we give You the seasons, needs, decisions, and frustrations we have shared today. Bring healing to those who are hurting, patience to those who are waiting, and courage to those You are calling forward. Help us recognize Your daily provision and receive support without shame. Make us attentive to one another's needs and joys, and help us follow through on the steps we have chosen. Thank You for the forgiveness and lasting hope we have through Jesus Christ. In His name, amen.