

Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Group Discussion Guide | May 10

Series overview and leader instructions

"Not Alone" is an 11-week journey through the Old Testament, tracing God's desire to dwell with His people and His faithful work to bring redemption. Through every season—deliverance, provision, rebellion, exile, and restoration—we see one unified story of grace, pointing to Jesus and the promise of God dwelling with His people forever.

The sermons in this series will take a fly-over, covering multiple chapters—and sometimes multiple *books*—in a single sermon. You may find that some people in your group may be unfamiliar with these stories and benefit from some additional context. We recommend incorporating videos from The Bible Project books of the Bible overview videos as needed. As the leader, you can decide whether to watch the videos as a group or send them out in your group chat or via email for people to watch on their own, or some combination of the two. Recommended videos will be linked in each week's group guide.

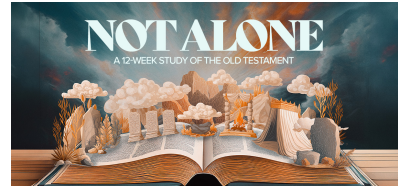
Here are overview videos of the books covered in this week's sermon:

- Leviticus: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/leviticus/> (8:16)
- Numbers: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/numbers/> (6:51)
- Deuteronomy: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/deuteronomy/> (7:49)

As always, use the group discussion guide below in the way that works best for *your* group. Prayerfully review the material and note the questions you sense the Spirit leading you to focus on. Linger on questions that yield fruitful discussion. Break into pairs or smaller groups for conversation or keep the discussion in the larger group. You know your group! Use this guide as a template but make it your own.

Opening prayer and reflection questions (10 minutes).

Begin your time together by inviting people to share their answers to the following:



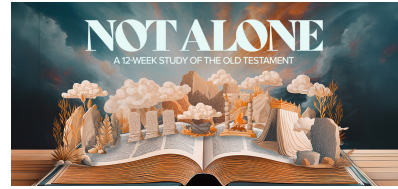
- This week, we're examining the experiences of the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Imagine our life group was going to travel together. Who would be most likely to . . .
 - Put together a complete itinerary ahead of time
 - Bring the snacks
 - Have a first aid kit
 - Have the best playlist
 - Be the "tour guide" and explain the importance of each location
 - Be a passenger princess (or prince)
 - Bring up the rear to make sure no one gets lost
 - Get separated from the group
 - Take the most pictures
 - Any other life group travel superlatives you can think of?
- Imagine you're an ancient Israelite. You were a slave your whole life. You've seen God act in mighty ways to set you free. Now you're in the middle of the wilderness. What kinds of thoughts or feelings might you be experiencing?

Pray: Lord, we know you tell us in Hebrews 4:12 that Your Word "is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." As we read about people who lived and died long ago, may we experience the power of these words to shape our own hearts today. Amen.

Discuss the sermon and books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy (45 minutes).

- What stood out to you from Gary's sermon?
- Gary mentioned the various ways God provided for His people in the wilderness: manna bread, quail, water from a rock. Think about a "wilderness" time in your life. Can you share a way God provided for you then?

A key moment in the Israelites' wilderness journey happens when Moses sends a representative from each tribe to scope out the land God has promised them. Read Numbers 13:26–14:9 to hear the scouting report and the people's response.



- The twelve scouts all see the same set of facts, yet Caleb and Joshua have a very different response than the other 10 scouts. What seems to shape the different perspectives?
- Can you share a time in your life when you responded to a situation like Joshua and Caleb?
- Can you share a time in your life when you responded to a situation like the other 10 spies and the rest of the Israelites?

Read Numbers 14:10-24 to hear God's response to His people's rebellion.

- How does God's response reflect both His justice and His mercy?
- What else do you notice about this conversation between God and Moses?

The people spend the next four decades in the wilderness. Finally, the time comes for the next generation to enter the Promised Land. In Deuteronomy, the people gather before Moses, who teaches them the law God had given to their parents at Mt. Sinai 40 years earlier.

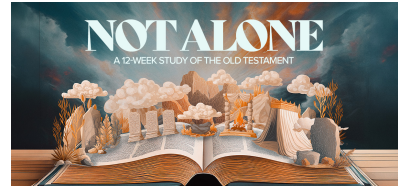
As you read the following, listen to some of Moses' final words to the people before they enter the Promised land. Listen for the choices he places before them.

Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20.

- Look back at verses 19 and 20. How do these verses characterize what "life" is?
- Are you experiencing this kind of life in your life?
- How can we help each other live in a "promised land" kind of community?

Concluding reflection and prayer (10 minutes).

If you want to take prayer requests, you may do so here, then incorporate praying for those requests in the prayer time below.



The books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy portray God’s people on their journey in the wilderness—the “land between.” And these books display God’s provision for His people, often despite their faithlessness.

Let’s first spend some time thanking God for His provision and faithfulness in our lives. After I begin, you may say a word, a phrase, or a sentence thanking God for what He has done for you. Then we will offer up our requests to Him, knowing that He is a God who provides.

Pray: God, we thank you for the ways you have provided for us in the past and provide for us now. We come before You now to acknowledge the specific things you’ve done for us. (At this time, people may offer their specific prayers of thanks. When people have finished, continue by offering the prayer below.)

Thank you for all you have done. We know you are a God who provides. We ask for you to provide for us now in the following ways.

(Pray for the requests that have been offered or invite others to do so. When you have finished, close with the following prayer based on Deuteronomy 32:3-4.)

We will proclaim the name of the Lord. We will praise the greatness of our God. He is the Rock. His works are perfect and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He. Thank you for hearing these prayers, just as you heard your children in the wilderness. Amen.