

"Keeping the Feast and Keeping the Faith"

Numbers 9:1–23

2 May 2021

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Can you remember your "Freedom Day"? Remind your group, and yourself, of the day you were freed from the clutches of Satan.

WORLDVIEW

2. How aware are you of recent high profile incidents of Christian leaders leaving the faith? How should we process the "deconstruction" stories that so seem to abound today? How can you guard yourself, and others, from the danger of deconstruction and apostasy?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. Read the chapter and discuss the significance of Israel's annual eight-day celebration of Passover.

Why was this feast so important?

How would this encourage the nation to forge ahead and resist the temptations to turn back?

How would this forge a sense of community among the people?

GOING DEEPER

4. According to v. 13, a covenant member who refused to participate in the feast was to be excommunicated. Why do you think this was?

How does this apply to those in the new covenant church who choose an individualistic approach to their relationship with God?

Is there a relevant connection with this thought and 1 Corinthians 5:1–13?

5. Having discussed the above, what do you think Paul meant by partaking of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27–32)? What is the connection between "an unworthy manner" and eating or drinking "without discerning the body"?

6. Communion communicates. Discuss as a group what it communicates, and how it does so.

How does the biblical observance of Communion strengthen us as one body (see 1 Corinthians 11:17–34)?

7. In her early days Israel "kept the faith," as God commanded (v. 23).

In contrast to the way the Lord guided Israel, how does the Lord guide his people today?

How do we experience God's presence today?

8. What was the connection between Israel keeping the feast (vv. 1–14) and keeping the faith (vv. 15–23)? What is the relevance to the church today?